FACT SHEET

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL

Economic Security for All (EcSA) is a competitive grant initiative to reinvent local poverty reduction systems in Washington State. Local awarded partnerships will work together to streamline access to benefits and services to help more families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits move out of poverty.

Why EcSA?

Currently 26% of Washingtonians are living in poverty – that's 1.9m people. This is the number of people below the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility standard of 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). That standard is below most measures of self-sufficiency, so it is a conservative estimate. Helping people move out of poverty has a high return on investment, and it is possible. Significant poverty reduction has been achieved in many parts of the world and in several instances in US history.

EcSA Overview

The Governor's office awarded $5.9 million in federal WIOA funds to implement and test 4 locally developed pilot models to comprehensively address poverty in target communities. Awards were made to local Workforce Development Councils (WDC) to coordinate local agencies and providers, including WIOA funds and locally identified leveraged resources, to streamline access to benefits and services. Primary indicators: Move families above 200% FPL and reduce total poverty in targeted communities.

Each EcSA Pilot Model includes:

- People experiencing poverty in the design, planning, and implementation
- A focus on racial and cultural equity, based on needs identified in the target community
- Partnership between the WDC, DSHS Community Services Office, and local organizations serving individuals in poverty
- Mentors from the community, so individual success is seen as community success
- Consider personal trauma, historical trauma, and behavioral health to help individuals build the necessary foundation for success
- Assistance to help participants access all eligible benefits to build a financial foundation for success

2019 EcSA Awards

The first round of EcSA funding resulted in awards to Spokane, the South Kelso and Highlands neighborhoods in Cowlitz County, the Salishan/Eastside Tacoma communities in Pierce County, and the city of Connell in Franklin County. These four communities are building comprehensive poverty reduction models that will help 895 families (around 2,700 people) move permanently out of poverty over the next 2.5 years. Awardees do not accomplish this with the EcSA funding alone. Rather, the EcSA funding is a catalyst for communities to reorganize how they use their larger existing funding streams and work together as a coordinated poverty reduction system. The intention is to create new models that measurably achieve poverty reduction—specifically designed for replication in more communities. We intend for future rounds of funding to replicate these models in more communities, help more families move permanently out of poverty, and gradually accelerate poverty reduction across the state.

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Number of SNAP/SNAP-eligible households moved to household income above 200% of FPL

June 2020	June 2021	June 2022
•167	•559	•895

EcSA Local Pilot Models

EcSA – Spokane

Will build upon ongoing efforts that recently led to the creation of the Spokane Resource Center (SRC). The goals of the SRC are to provide resources and support designed to reduce poverty, address and prevent homelessness; to give greater access to healthcare, substance abuse, and mental health services; and to cluster many services in one place designed to help families step into self-sufficiency. This EcSA model will serve families in West Central, Downtown, East Central, and parts of Northeast Spokane. EcSA Spokane will create additional capacity to serve recipients of SNAP benefits in the target area, providing participant navigators and supporting coordinated holistic assessment and intensive and personalized services necessary to transition into careers with a family-sustaining wage.

EcSA – Longview/Kelso

Will serve families in Cowlitz County's South Kelso and Highlands neighborhoods in a public-private partnership with the local manufacturing industry and additional private investments. This model takes a new approach to enhance and connect a wide array of community partnerships and link previously disparate programs to provide the necessary targeted services for individuals to work their way out of poverty. Efforts will focus on engaging local government and industry to promote changes to policies, practices, and workplace culture that lead to more equitable and inclusive workplaces; targeting outreach to under-employed individuals; and providing jobsite access to partner services to support hiring, training, and job retention.

EcSA – Pierce

Will serve families in the Salishan/Eastside Tacoma community, combining best practices from the following models: South Sound 2-1-1, Centers for Strong Families, Guided Pathways, Family Self-Sufficiency from Tacoma Housing Authority, and CRED (Career Readiness, Education & Development) training. Services will be provided to clients directly in their community at the Salishan Association Family Investment Center, helping them enroll in training/education, successfully pursue employment, increase assets, and mitigate personal or financial barriers. EcSA funds will be leveraged with local resources to ensure comprehensive services are provided to all participants.

EcSA - Connell

Will serve families in the city of Connell in Franklin County, building a partnership around four pillars of support: transportation, healthcare, childcare and employment. EcSA - Connell will establish regular transportation to connect residents of Connell to opportunities and resources in the Tri-Cities; provide access to physical and mental healthcare; support access to affordable, reliable, and quality childcare; and focus employment and training efforts on cohorts tied to high-demand occupations in the Tri-Cities.

Interested in connecting with EcSA?

More information, reach out to one of the contacts below, or visit our website at: wpc.wa.gov/grants/EcSA-initiative-information

EcSA – Connell:

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