

What is the Opportunity Grant?

The Opportunity Grant is a state funded financial aid program that is designed to help low-income adults reach the educational tipping point — and beyond — in high-wage, high-demand careers. Reaching the tipping point allows the least prepared individuals to complete 45 credits, receive a credential, and increase job skills and knowledge through career pathways. The approved high-wage, high-demand career pathways provide a minimum beginning wage of \$13.00 per hour in Washington State, except a minimum \$15.00 per hour in King County.

Eligible students pursuing approved pathways may receive funds to cover tuition and mandatory fees up to 45 credits and up to \$1,000 per academic year for books and supplies. Individual student support services are an important part of the program and may include: a single point of contact, one-on-one tutoring, career advising, college success classes, emergency child care, and emergency transportation.

Where does the money come from?

The funds come from a legislative earmark and are reallocated every year. For more information on Opportunity Grant legislation, visit http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/s_opportunitygrants.aspx

How do I apply?

You can pick up an application from the Opportunity Grant office, 1219, or download one from the website. Bring your completed application to the Opportunity Grant office along with proof of Washington State residency and proof of income (completed FAFSA, tax forms or last 3 months of pay stubs). It will take up to 2 weeks to process completed applications. You will be contacted by the Opportunity Grant case manager when a decision has been made.

What can the grant pay for?

Students eligible for the Opportunity Grant may receive funds to cover 45 credits of tuition/mandatory fees and up to \$1,000 per year for books and supplies. Support services such as tutoring, college success workshops, emergency child care, and emergency transportation are also part of the Opportunity Grant program.

Does the grant cover living expenses?

No, but there are limited funds set aside to assist eligible Opportunity Grant students with emergency needs such as childcare or transportation. The Opportunity Grant case manager can also assist with referrals to social service agencies.

Will I ever have to pay the money back?

No, this grant will never have to be paid back.