

Basic Food Employment and Training

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

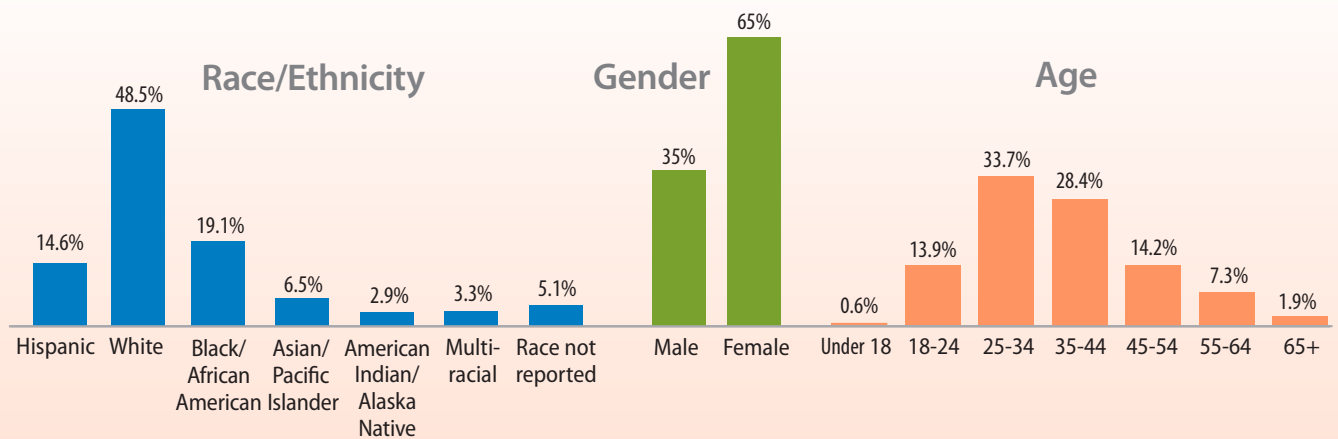
Program Description

The Basic Food Employment and Training program is Washington state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training program. BFET provides education, employment and training services to Basic Food recipients not participating in the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Refugee Cash Assistance programs.

BFET is an important part of the state's comprehensive workforce development system and plays a vital role in Washington's two-generation approach, reducing poverty and increasing prosperity for families. BFET assists Basic Food recipients through skill acquisition, education and employment.

BFET activities include job-search training, supervised job-search assistance, educational services, vocational education and skills training. The program also offers case management in all activities, job-retention services and such wraparound supports as transportation and child care to facilitate successful program completion.

Characteristics of BFET Participants



Highlights of Basic Food Employment and Training participation

- BFET served 42,140 participants over the past five federal fiscal years (FFY 2019 – 2023).¹
- The BFET program operates in 39 counties in Washington state and is one of the most robust employment and training programs in the county.

¹ DSHS EMAPS Reports #4500
(Unduplicated # of participants)

For more information go to:
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bfet>



Transforming lives

(Rev. 9/2024)

Program Funding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service supports BFET through three funding methods. This creates opportunities for colleges and community-based organizations to leverage existing funds to expand capacity and provide support services opportunities.

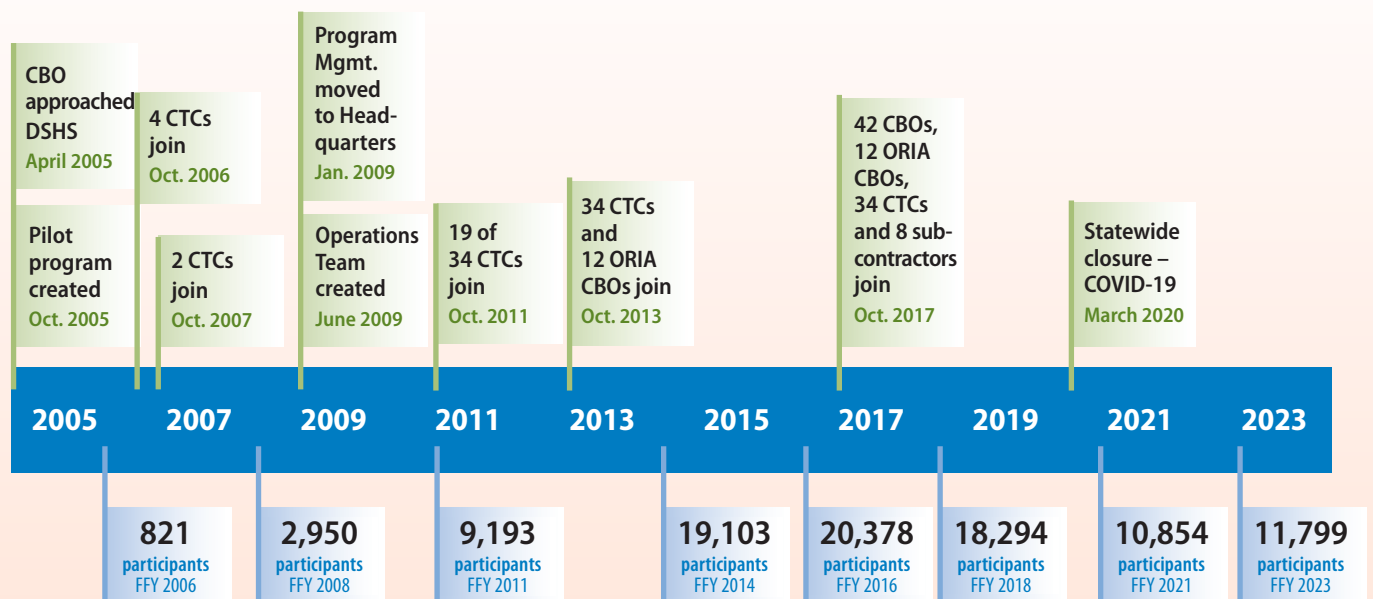
- 1. 100% Grant Funding** - The federal government distributes this funding nationwide based on the federal formula related to the number of work registrants in the state. Washington uses these funds to administer the statewide program and reserves a small portion of the funds to start services in underserved geographic areas and help underserved populations.
- 2. 50/50 Reimbursement Funding** - States are also eligible for 50/50 federal reimbursement to cover administrative costs and participant reimbursements (support services). This funding is distinguished from 100% funds because the federal portion must be matched by the provider's own funding and is a separate grant. BFET providers must initially cover the cost of program operations, then receive reimbursement for 50% of the cost after incurring cost and providing services.
- 3. 75/25 Reimbursement Funding for Tribal Programs** - USDA Food and Nutrition Service values and supports strengthening tribal relations and programming and recognizes the importance of employment and training activities with tribal entities. The funding model is still a reimbursement model, but tribal programs are reimbursed at 75% to cover administrative costs and support services for their BFET program. Tribal programs are required to match 25% of funds.

History of the Basic Food Employment and Training Program

The BFET program started in Seattle as a pilot in October 2005, with four community-based organizations and one college. The program now reaches statewide with over 50 community-based organizations, 13 Employment Security WorkSource locations and all 34 community and technical colleges offering a variety of employment and training services.

BFET Timeline – 2005 to the present

BFET providers include over 56 community-based organization locations, 11 ORIA providers, 34 colleges, and 8 subcontractors



BFET annual client participation

CBO: Community-Based Organizations
 CTC: Community and Technical Colleges
 ORIA: DSHS Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance