

Basic Food Employment and Training

Program Description

Basic Food Employment and Training is Washington state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training program. BFET provides education, employment and training services to Basic Food recipients who are 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. It plays a vital role in Washington's approach to 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.
- Skills training.
- Case management in all activities.
- Job-retention services.
- Wraparound supports such as transportation and child care.

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-service 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 state uses these funds to administer the program. It reserves a small portion of the funds to start services in underserved geographic areas and help underserved populations.



Highlights of Basic Food Employment and Training Participation

- BFET served 39,764 participants over the past 5 federal fiscal years (FFY 2020 – 2024).¹
- The BFET program operates in 39 counties in Washington state and is one of the most robust employment and training programs in the country.

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 it and providing services.

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

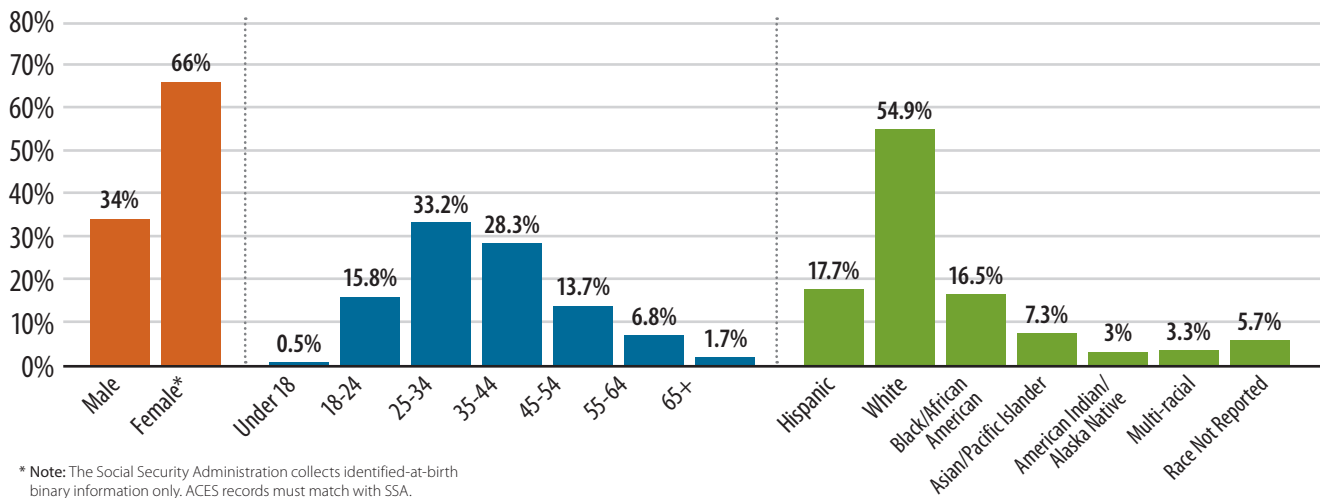
3. 75/25 reimbursement funding for Tribal programs: The USDA Food and Nutrition Service values and supports strengthening Tribal relations and programming. It recognizes the importance of employment and training activities with Tribal entities. The funding model is still a reimbursement model, but Tribal programs are reimbursed at 75% to cover administrative costs and support services for their BFET programs. 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, working with four community-based organizations and one college.

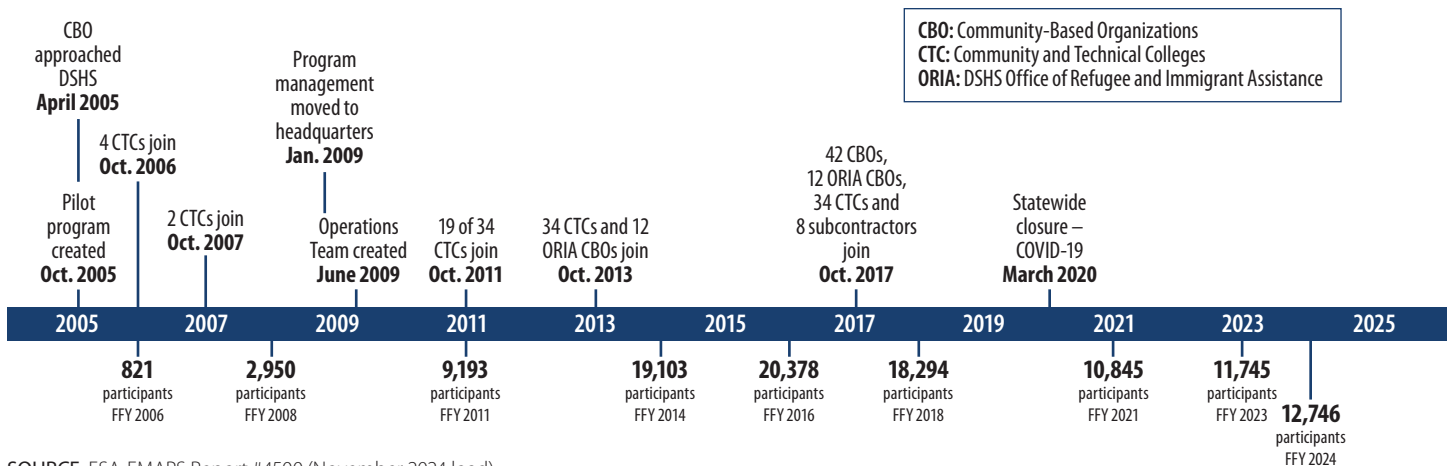
The program now reaches statewide, working with all 34 community and technical colleges, over 50 community-based organization sites, including Employment Security WorkSource locations, Workforce Development Councils, and ORIA-specific locations offering a variety of employment and training services.

Characteristics of BFET Participants



BFET Timeline and Annual Client Participation – 2005 to present

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



SOURCE: ESA-EMAPS Report #4500 (November 2024 load)

For more information, visit:
www.dshs.wa.gov/bfet



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