

**Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Child Support  
"Building Assets for Fathers and Families"**

This 36-month grant responds to the Priority Area "How OCSE Grantees Can Support "Building Assets for Fathers and Families" (BAFF)." The Division of Child Support is partnering with the Washington Asset Building Coalition (WABC) and two Assets for Independence (AFI) grantees – Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP) and the Spokane Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP) .

Noncustodial parents and their families in Southwest and Eastern Washington State (Cowlitz, Clark, Lewis, Wahkiakum, and Spokane counties) will be provided with education on building eligible specified assets, through existing IDA programs, financial topics such as managing bank accounts and bank products, accessing credit and credit repair strategies, debt management including support order management, the importance of and strategies for increasing savings, and information about lending and credit terms and services. Participants will also be provided information on Earned Income Tax Credit and free tax preparation services. When appropriate, participants will receive referrals and information on housing, employment, and educational services while receiving intervention services from the Department of Child Support (DCS) staff to help them manage their child support obligations. SNAP and Lower Columbia CAP has staff co-located and operated in partnership with job search providers, where issues of unemployment or underemployment are addressed on an individual basis with referrals for direct program enrollment when appropriate.

The main goals of this grant are to strengthen collaborations between DCS and AFI grantees to leverage existing strong relationships through recognition of shared goals, caseloads, operational integration, and institutionalization of sustainable collaborative gains beyond the BAFF grant. Additionally, the grant administrators intend to help families achieve financial stability by enhancing NCPs' understanding of financial options, improving their ability to meet child support obligations, feel more fluent and confident in financial matters. This collaborative project between some of Washington State's leading asset building organizations is an exciting opportunity to provide greater support for children.

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