

# Basic Food Employment and Training

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

## Program Description

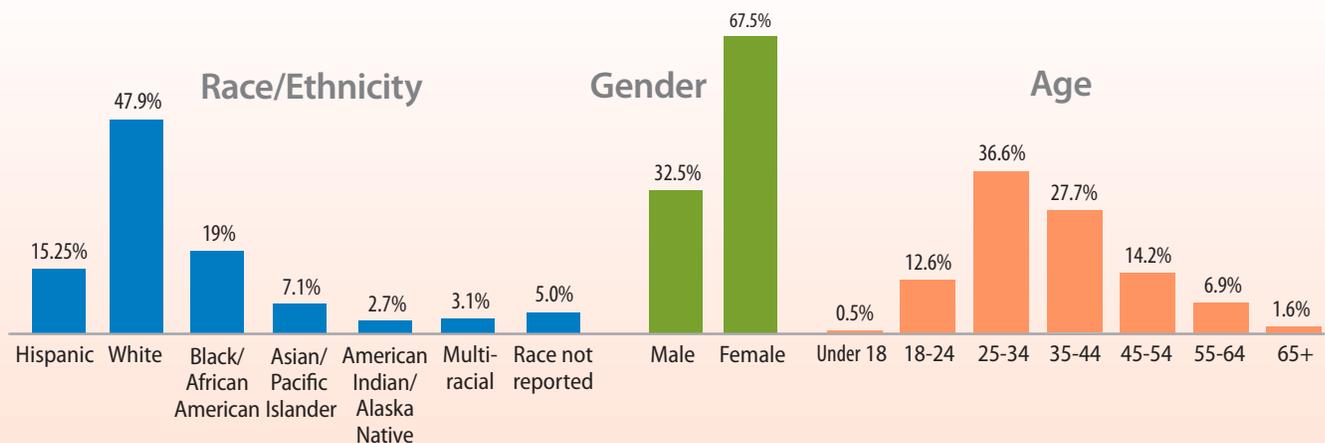
The Basic Food Employment and Training program is Washington state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training program. BFET provides education, employment and training services to Basic Food recipients not participating in the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or 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 by encouraging economic well-being 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 wraparound supports such as transportation and child care to facilitate successful program completion.

## Who does Basic Food Employment and Training serve?

### Characteristics of People Served by BFET in June 2022<sup>1</sup>



**Data Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> ESA-EMAPS Annual Report #4189 using the ACES data Warehouse as of the June 2022 load

## Highlights of Basic Food Employment and Training participation

- BFET served 81,262 participants over the past five Federal Fiscal Years (FFY 2017 – 2021).<sup>2</sup>
- The BFET program operates in 35 of 39 counties in Washington state and is one of the most robust employment and training programs in the country.

<sup>2</sup> DSHS EMAPS Reports #4500 and #3751  
(Unduplicated # of participants)

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



Transforming lives

(Rev. 9/2023)

## 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, 12 Employment Security WorkSource locations and all 34 community and technical colleges offering a variety of employment and training services.

