

Workforce Development

Welcome to the Applying for Food Benefits Workshop

If after viewing this presentation-you have additional questions or want further assistance with applying for food benefits please contact us at:

(425) 576 – 5811

Or

BFET@lwtech.edu

We would be happy to help you apply!

(Logos link to websites within slide show)



What are food benefits?



- ✓ Food benefits or food stamps come from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- ✓ There are 2 types of food benefits, state and federal, the type you get can be dependent on your citizenship/immigration status
- ✓ Food benefits are issued on an EBT card monthly. The amount depends on your family size and income
- ✓ Food benefits help you pay for groceries to feed you and your family

Why apply for food benefits?

Having **federal** food benefits gives you access to the Basic Food, Employment and Training (BFET) Program which can include:

- ✓ Funding for books & supplies (up to \$250 per quarter)
- ✓ Childcare assistance through Working Connections Childcare (DSHS)
- ✓ Eligibility for food benefits if previously denied
- ✓ Educational & career advising
- ✓ Assistance with navigating Financial Aid (FAFSA) and scholarship applications

You must be enrolled in a Professional Technical Program or Basic Skills/ESL classes

Who should apply?

Income guidelines for Pell Grant (FAFSA) are similar to those for food benefits- if you qualify for Pell you might qualify for food benefits

Income guidelines to qualify for food benefits:

- 1 person family \$2023 (\$24,280 a year)
- 2 person family \$2743 (\$32,920 a year)
- 3 person family \$3463 (\$41,560 a year)
- 4 person family \$4183 (\$50,200 a year)
- 5 person family \$4903 (\$58,840 a year)
- 6 person family \$5623 (\$67,480 a year)

Who should apply cont.

- ✓ Food benefits are another form of financial aid available to students
- ✓ You can access BFET while you are on the Opportunity Grant waiting list
- ✓ Programs like BFET are designed to help support people while they are working to improve their lives
- ✓ Take the short anonymous quiz on [Washington Connection](#) to see if you qualify

Discounts available while receiving food benefits may include:

- ✓ Childcare assistance through Working Connections Childcare (DSHS)
- ✓ Buy \$10 of fresh fruits & vegetables and get a \$5 coupon at participating Safeway stores in Seattle. Learn more at [Fresh Bucks Seattle](#). Or outside of Seattle at [Complete Eats](#)
- ✓ Pacific Science Center discounts
- ✓ Children's Museum Discounts in: Everett, Bellevue, Seattle, and Olympia
- ✓ Woodland Park Zoo & Seattle Aquarium tickets. Limited tickets available at Renton Community Service Office (DSHS Office)
- ✓ Tacoma: Art, Glass, and History Museum discounts

Where do I apply for food benefits?

Washington Connection is a one stop website for resources, including food benefits:

Find Services...

[Find Services Tutorial](#)

Let Washington Connection help you and your family find the benefits and services you need. Begin by learning about the [additional benefits and programs](#) you can see if you might qualify for, or review [a description of programs you can apply for on Washington Connection](#).

You can also browse for resources, programs and services provided by many of our partner agencies below.

Food  EBT, Resources, How to Apply	Cash / Financial  Credit Counseling, Resources, How to Apply	Housing and Utilities  Emergency Shelters, Resources	Youth Services  Resources on health, sexuality, careers, foster care, and more
Health Care  Washington Apple Health, Dental Care, Resources, How to Apply	Long Term Care  Seniors or persons with disabilities, How to Apply, Find Providers	Veterans  Resources for veterans and their families	Mental Health  Resources for Behavioral Health
Treatment Centers  Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services	Education  Preschool, Elementary-Secondary, Higher Education	Employment  Employment Services and Training	Children / Families  Parenting Support, Development Screening, Child Support, Child Care
Crime/Domestic Violence  Crime and Domestic Violence Support Services, Emergency Resources	Tribes  Washington Tribes and American Indian Organizations	Legal Help  Resources for Legal Assistance	Transportation  Resources for Transportation

Washington Connection



- ✓ Washington Connection's website has links to community resources
- ✓ Washington Connection is where you apply for DSHS services and find DSHS forms
- ✓ Washington Connection allows you to create your DSHS account so that you can check the status of your application as well as submit paperwork required to keep your benefits
- ✓ Take the short anonymous "[see if I qualify quiz](#)" to find out what resources you might be eligible for

See if I qualify



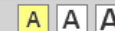
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See If I Qualify

[See If I Qualify Tutorial](#)

Let's find out. It's easy. And it's secure

Many Washington residents need help but don't know what services are available. You or your family may qualify for any number of Federal, State, City or other local benefits.

Step 1: Answer a few questions as completely as possible.

These questions are about you and others in your home. If you are answering these questions for someone else, answer the questions as if you were that person. This process takes about 15 minutes.

Step 2: Review the results.

The results you see are based on the answers to the questions you were asked. Services or programs you see listed are services or programs you might be eligible for.

Step 3: Apply for services.

Some services you can apply for on the website. Those are indicated with a checkbox on the Results page. Select the program(s) you wish to apply for and then start an e-Application. For more detailed descriptions of programs you can apply for click [here](#).

Additional programs.

Some programs can't be applied for directly on the site but still show on the Results page. For more detailed descriptions of these programs, click [here](#).

[Next >>](#)

[Register to Vote](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Report Welfare Fraud](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Customer Survey](#)

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Apply Online

[Washington Connection](#)

This is the first step in applying for food and other benefits with DSHS, and for becoming eligible for the BFET program. If you did the [See if I Qualify](#) assessment you can start your application directly from there.

You will need this information in order to complete your application:

- Social Security Numbers for all members of your family
- Total monthly income amounts
- Total monthly mortgage, rent, gas, electric, heat, and phone costs

Online application cont.

**After completing your online application, call for phone interview
(30 minutes or more after submitting online application):**

1 (877) 501-2233

Mon — Fri between 8:00am — 3:00pm

*****If you are denied because you are in school, DO NOT GIVE UP*****

WorkForce Development Staff can provide you with a referral

CONTACT US AT
BFET@lwtech.edu
(425) 576-5811



Paper Application

1. Fill out a paper application
2. Go to the CSO (DSHS Office) to turn in and do your intake interview on the same day
 - Or- Submit via drop box in the CSO Office, then call for intake interview in 2 days
 - Or- Mail in application then call for intake interview 1 week after mailing your application

Application: printable at [DSHS online](#) -Or- call your local DSHS office to have one mailed to you

How to find your local DSHS office

[Find your local office](#)

General DSHS Mailing address:

**DSHS- CSD- Customer Service Center
PO Box 11699
Tacoma, WA 98411-6699**

General DSHS Phone number: 1 (877) 501-2233

What to do once your food benefits are approved.

Once you are approved for Federal Food Benefits

Apply For BFET at Lake Washington Institute of Technology!

- ***FUTURE STUDENTS:*** Attend LWTech College Info Session & Campus Tour with Workforce Development Orientation - Wednesdays @ 11am in W305B

- ***CURRENT LWTECH STUDENTS:*** Contact us to schedule your Workforce Development Intake Appointment WFD@lwtech.edu or (425) 739-8339

BFET

Benefits of BFET Program may include:

- ✓ Funding for required books & supplies (up to \$250 per quarter)
- ✓ Childcare assistance through Working Connections Childcare (DSHS)
- ✓ Eligibility for food benefits if previously denied
- ✓ Educational & Career advising
- ✓ Assistance with navigating Financial Aid (FAFSA) and scholarship applications

To qualify you:

- ✓ Are receiving or are eligible to receive federal food benefits
- ✓ Not receiving TANF
- ✓ Committed to getting a job upon program completion
- ✓ Are enrolled in a Professional Technical program or Basic Skills/ESL

BFET in the community

These programs offer:

- Individualized case management
- Employment assistance
- Financial Assistance which may include: transportation, clothing, certifications, textbooks, and lab fees
- Post-employment job retention services



Workforce Development

When you complete a WorkForce Development Application we will also evaluate it for these programs:

- Worker Retraining
- Opportunity Grant

Filling out one application could make you eligible for 3 funding sources

Worker Retraining

Worker Retraining is a program that offers:

- Tuition Payment for up to 2 quarters
- Funding for required books & supplies (up to \$250)
- Educational & Career advising

Eligibility includes:

- **LAI D OFF WORKERS:** collecting or have exhausted UI benefits in the past 48 months
- **VULNERABLE TO LAYOFF:** at risk of layoff & have not earned a certificate/degree
- **DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS:** recently lost primary source of income due to household change of circumstances (divorce, separation, layoff, death, etc.)
- **MILITARY VETERANS:** discharged within the past 48 months
- **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY:** with separation orders
- **PREVIOUSLY SELF-EMPLOYED:** business closed due to economic condition

Opportunity Grant

Opportunity Grant is a program that offers:

- Up to 45 credits of tuition and fees
- Up to \$1,000 for required books and supplies
- Educational & Career advising
- Assistance navigating Financial Aid (FAFSA) and scholarship applications

To qualify you must:

- Meet income guidelines
- Have not earned a degree
- Be a Washington State resident
- Be enrolled in qualified LWTech Program:
 - Accounting
 - Healthcare
 - I-Best
 - Business Technology

Help with job search

Employment Resource Center is a resource that offers:

- Online job search
- Career Events & Workshops
- Educational & Career advising
- Resume assistance
- Interview preparation
- Career planning

CONTACT US AT
Job.placement@lwtech.edu
(425) 739-8113



Thank you!

Come and see us in W207 once you get approved for food benefits or if you have any questions.

CONTACT US AT
BFET@lwtech.edu
(425) 576-5811

