



## Who we are

The College Promise Coalition (CPC) is an unprecedented partnership that brings together advocates for Washington state's public and private four- and two-year colleges and universities, students, families, faculty, alumni, education supporters and leaders in business and labor. We advocate for affordable, accessible education and training opportunities for our students after they finish high school. Founded in 2011 in response to dramatic state cuts to higher education funding, the coalition is fighting to ensure that access to an affordable, quality education remains an option for all Washingtonians.

## The Problem

In 2013 the Washington legislature adopted **a goal that at least 70% of adults ages 25-44 possess a postsecondary credential or degree by 2023**. This means four- and two-year degrees, apprenticeships, or certificates that prepare students for careers.

But today just **51% of adults** have a post-high school credential. For Washington students specifically, **less than one-third** attain a postsecondary credential. Washington is projected to have 740,000 job openings by 2021. A majority of these jobs will require workers to get a credential of some kind after high school. CPC is working to make sure Washington students are prepared to take advantage of the career opportunities in their home state.

We are not yet on track to meet the 2023 adopted goal – working together on shared priorities to achieve our higher education attainment goals is CPC's mission, improving workers' quality of life and our economy.

## Our 2018 Priority

Washington students have big dreams for their futures. But for thousands of our students, the cost of a credential after high school is a nearly insurmountable barrier. The State Need Grant (SNG) makes education after high school possible for more 69,000 Washingtonians who are low-income. But there is not enough funding to provide grants to an additional 21,000 students who qualify this year.

**The CPC's 2018 priority is fully funding the SNG, our state's largest financial aid program.** For over 40 years, Washington's students who have the most financial need have been able to pursue degrees and skills training because of SNG assistance. Unlike other need-based student financial aid programs, the SNG serves a range of students, from those who have just graduated high school to adult learners, making Washington's SNG program a national model for need-based access programs. But thousands of eligible students miss out on SNG assistance because of a lack of state funding.

Fully funding the SNG will boost enrollment and completion, ensuring students have the opportunity to succeed regardless of income level or background. College and career training are the keys to giving Washington students the opportunities they need to be successful, while also addressing the state's skill and opportunity gaps.