

College Spark Washington funds programs across Washington state that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees.

College Spark makes grants to organizations and institutions throughout Washington that help low-income students improve their academic achievement, prepare for college, and successfully graduate. Grantees include community-based organizations, community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, education nonprofits, and public agencies.

Supporting access to higher education for over 30 years

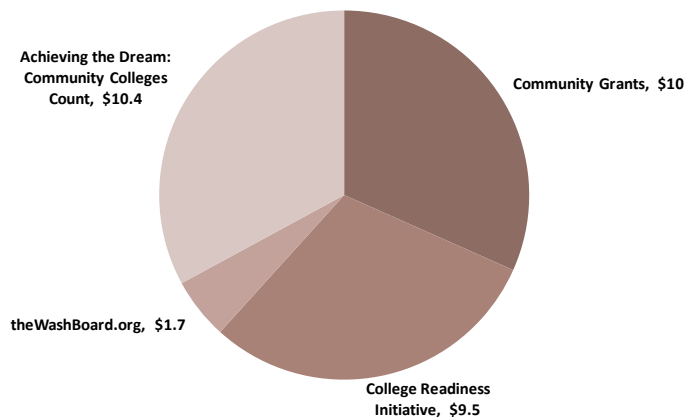
College Spark began supporting access to higher education in 1978 by managing student loan programs. In 2004, the loan operations were sold and an endowment created. Grant-making began in 2005 and since then we have committed more than \$30 million to college readiness and degree completion programs throughout Washington state.

College Spark grantees are improving student success, raising awareness about best practices in college readiness and degree completion, and contributing to research that drives policy improvements.

Just 21% of low-income students are prepared for college level work, compared with 54% of middle- and upper-income students. (Goldberger, Susan, 2007)

Students from high-income families are six times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than low income students. (U.S. Department of Education Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, 2001)

College Spark Grant Awards (\$ in Millions)



College Spark Washington Programs & Initiatives

Community Grants Program

An annual, competitive grant program funding the most promising college readiness and degree completion projects that support planning, capacity-building, research, evaluation, and coalition-building. Between 2005-2011, College Spark awarded more than 100 community grants totaling over \$10 million.

College Readiness Initiative

A multiyear initiative investing \$9.5 million in two promising programs at 38 schools in 19 districts, aimed at encouraging students to explore their postsecondary options and take rigorous college preparation courses.

- **Navigation 101:**

A program that provides personalized support to students in grades 6-12 to help them chart their postsecondary paths.



- **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID):**

An academic support program aimed at helping students in grades 4-12 succeed in challenging courses and prepare for college.



Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count

A national initiative to help more community college students succeed, particularly low-income students and students of color. College Spark has funded 16 Washington community colleges seeking to increase their focus on student success and develop a culture of evidence in which decisions are based on data. In 2011, College Spark committed an additional \$6.6 million to support the initiative in Washington, for a total of \$10.4 million to date.

Washington Scholarship Coalition

A public/private partnership to build a free, web-based scholarship clearinghouse for Washington residents and students attending Washington colleges. There are over 80,000 registered scholarship seekers and more than \$28 million in available scholarship awards.



Contact Us

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