Foster Youth Demonstration Site

1. **Purpose:** Youth impacted by the foster care system experience among the lowest high school graduation and postsecondary completion outcomes compared to any other population of youth. The purpose/objective of this program is to provide services to dependent youth (age 13–21) to improve their educational outcomes by providing individualized education services and monitoring to support completion of their educational milestones, remediation needs, and special education needs.

    The programs at three (3) demonstration sites must facilitate the educational progress, high school completion, and postsecondary plan initiation of eligible youth, with a stated goal of improving the graduation rates and postsecondary plan initiation of foster youth by two percent (2%) per year over five (5) school years.

2. **Description of services provided:** Education specialists work with youth to create a student centered plan for their education and their future, in consultation with DCYF caseworkers. These plans help to create student centered planning goals for each youth with a set of action plans for achieving those goals. Education specialists review the student centered planning goals and action plans with youth on a monthly, sometimes weekly, basis.

    In addition to graduation rates, the program tracks three academic indicators known to impact academic outcomes: attendance, behavior, and course performance. When an issue arises, education specialists advocate for youth at school to eliminate barriers to education access and success. These interventions are divided into four categories: enrollment issues, discipline related issues, barriers to accessing service, and barriers to educational progress.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:** This is the first (1st) demonstration site and consists of school districts in King County. School districts were selected due to their high population of high school aged foster youth in those areas.

    Beneficiaries in 2017-18 School Year:

# of School Districts:	7
# of Schools:	45
# of Students:	176
Other:	00

# of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):	0.0
# of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:	1

    FY 18 Funding:

State Appropriation:	$446,000
Federal Appropriation:	$0.0
Other fund sources:	$0.0
TOTAL (FY18)	$446,000

4.   Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain.   No.

5.   State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY18	$446,000	$446,000
FY17	$446,000	$446,000

6.   Number of beneficiaries (e.g., schools, students, districts) history:

Fiscal Year	# of Districts
FY17	7
FY18	7

7.   Programmatic changes since inception (if any): The initial pilot was a single demonstration site with school districts in King County. Since then, the first site has expanded to all school districts in King County. Two (2) additional demonstration sites were added in other regions of the state. In addition, this contract was moved from DSHS/CA to OSPI for contract management. The transition has allowed the state education agency to facilitate better working relationships with school districts, and better communication with the providers intended audience.

8.   Evaluations of program/major findings: With a goal of increasing the high school graduation rate by 2% each year, a baseline measure was set for the participating districts at 66% based on the graduating class of 2014. Graduation rate for 2017 was 69%, demonstrating a 3% increase.

9.   Major challenges faced by the program: There have been challenges negotiating the useful exchange of information in a three-way agreement among DSHS/CA, OSPI, and the third party contractor implementing the program. This has created challenges when trying to streamline referrals. Because services have been provided at this site previously, and the contractor has relationships with most districts, the contractor has been able to leverage their experience to facilitate referrals.

10.   Future opportunities: Current issues around data sharing, once resolved, will provide an opportunity for the contractor to provide outreach to all eligible youth in their service area. This will improve access and overall capacity in the entire region.

      Due to the knowledge and expertise gained in the implementation of this first demonstration site, expansion to additional sites has been fluent. The contractor's ongoing partnership with OSPI and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families has allowed the contractor to implement protocols, policies, and procedures for the maintenance and expansion of the program.

11. Statutory and/or Budget language:
    Budget Proviso: SSB 5883 Section 501(36) - $2,145,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and $2,145,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for a contract with a nongovernmental entity or entities for demonstration sites to improve the educational outcomes of students who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW pursuant to chapter 71, laws of 2016 (Fourth Substitute House Bill No. 1999 foster youth educational outcomes). (a) Of the amount provided in this subsection, $446,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and $446,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for the demonstration site established pursuant to the 2013-15 omnibus appropriations act, section 202(10), chapter 4, Laws of 2013, 2nd special session.

12. Other relevant information: Over the last decade, legislative leadership has sparked innovation and development of an array of services to improve educational outcomes. This coordinated, intensive, and intentional program proactively supports youth to complete high school and successfully implement their own plans for their future.

13. List of schools/districts receiving assistance: See OSPI website.

14. Program Contact Information: Peggy Carlson
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