

# Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

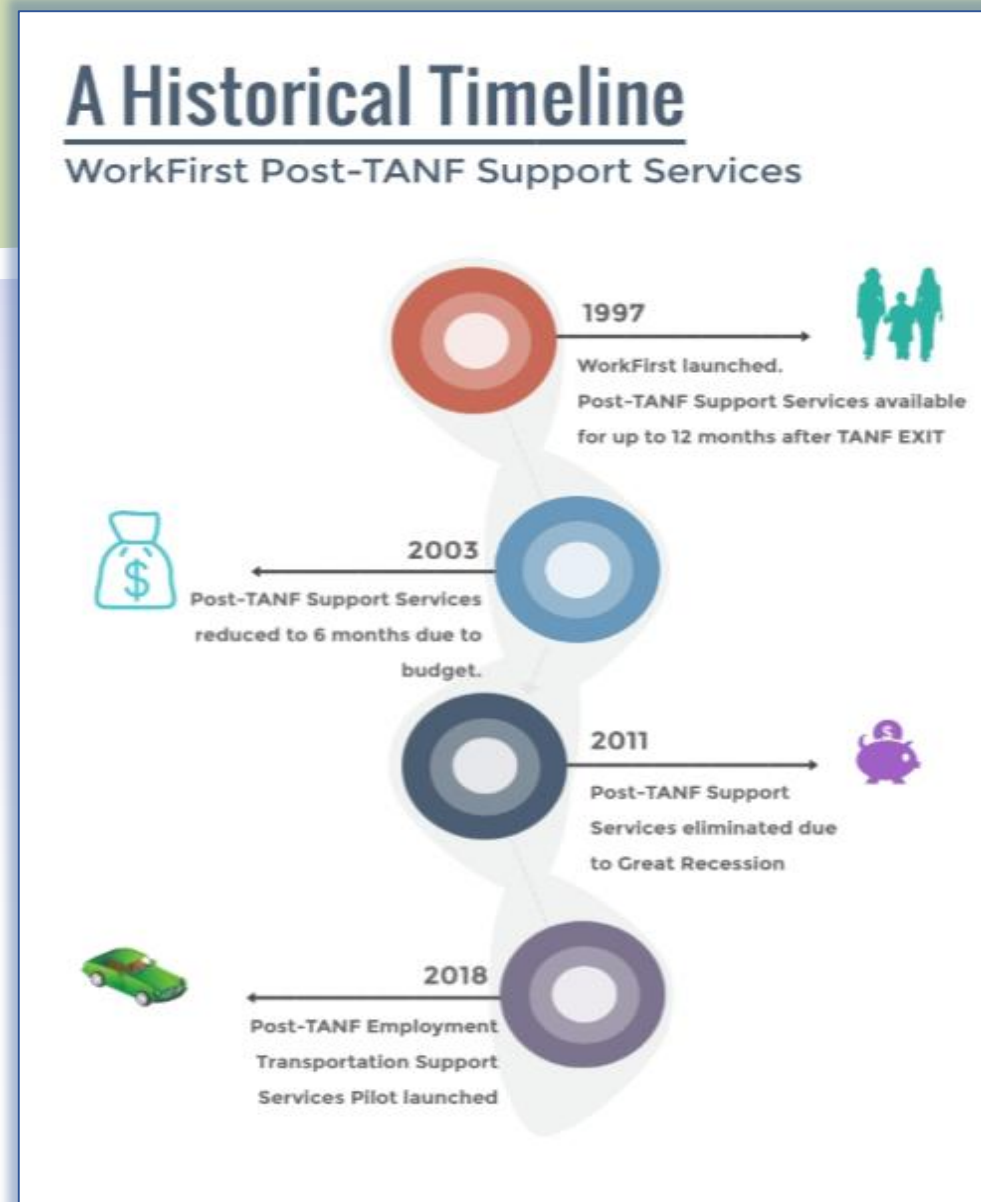
November 25, 2019

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions *(8:30 – 8:45)*
- Taskforce Business *(8:45 – 8:50)*
- WorkFirst Updates *(8:50 – 9:15)*
- Report on Listening Sessions *(9:15 – 9:45)*
- Implementation Update from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) *(9:45 – 10:15)*
- Overview of Community Eligibility from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) *(10:15 – 10:45)*
- Poverty Reduction – Five-Year Strategic Plan *(10:45 – 11:15)*
- Public Comment *(11:15 – 11:30)*

# Post-TANF Support Services

- Historically part of WorkFirst
- Help smooth the “benefit cliff”



# 2019 Listening Sessions

## Overview & Themes

David Hlebain

Emil Floresca

Laura Lee Sturm



# ABOUT POVERTY ACTION

The Statewide Poverty Action Network is a grassroots advocacy organization that supports grassroots leaders, mobilizes voters, and advances equitable policy solutions to end poverty in Washington state. 📣

We combine **legislative advocacy work** with **grassroots community engagement** to pass laws and create systemic change that is ***people-centered.***




# OUR METHOD: LISTENING SESSIONS



## 2019 LOCATIONS

- Okanagan
- Longview
- Des Moines
- Aberdeen
- Walla Walla


# OKANAGAN

- TANF does not pay enough to cover families' basic needs, including housing.
  - Accessing dental care is nearly impossible for individuals on Medicaid/Apple Health
  - There is a severe lack of drug treatment services and resources for communities heavily impacted by substance abuse.
  - The cost of childcare is insurmountable.
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*“My hope for my family is to get to the point where we're overflowing. Not just barely able to figure out how to be giving. Everything I care about has to do with making the world a better place. I hope that for my kids, I hope that they find their gifts [in life].”*




# LONGVIEW

- The rising cost of rent is outpacing income, and waitlists for housing programs are years-long.
  - Stigma, judgement, and violence directed at low-income individuals and people experiencing homelessness is pervasive.
  - Dental care is difficult to access, and it is nearly impossible to find preventative care.
  - Navigating the criminal justice system is extremely difficult.
- 


*“My TANF grant is \$670 and my rent is \$995. That's not considering vehicle costs. You guys know what it takes to raise children. It's expensive just to supply them with the basic necessities. And with my rent being over \$300 more than my TANF grant is, I'm left to sell belongings, and that only lasts so long. Or beg family until I can find a better source of income. Most of my relatives say, ‘I'm sorry, we're barely paying our bills too.’”*

# DES MOINES

- It is extremely difficult to cover a family's basic needs while accessing TANF.
  - Individuals do not feel equipped to navigate DSHS programs independently and would benefit from an advocate who knows the system.
  - Individuals seeking assistance from DSHS reported negative and disrespectful treatment.
  - TANF's limits on vocational education - and time limits generally - impede students' ability to pursue the type of education that could help their family achieve long term stability.
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*“I want to give my kids the life that they deserve and let them live how a child should. I want to be a nurse, and my ultimate goal is that my kids will go and do what they're supposed to do. Go to college. They don't have to repeat the cycle.”*

# ABERDEEN

- Eligibility requirements to stay in good standing with social service program are too strict.
  - The lack of communication between services, programs, and case workers within DSHS leads to inconsistent service delivery and difficulty navigating programs and systems.
  - It is difficult to qualify for subsidized childcare, and low worker wages impact quality of services.
  - Debt inhibits opportunity for families to move out of poverty.
  - The lack of affordable, accessible dental care negatively impacts overall well-being.
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*“I feel like at some point in time my feet are going to be knocked out from under me over this debt that I owe that keeps adding up. The interest accrues. I keep getting a statement and no matter how much I pay for it, it doesn't matter. It goes up higher and higher and higher and it never matters.”*



# Supporting Postsecondary Students' Basic Needs

*2SHB 1893 & 2SSB 5800 Implementation*

Dr. Erin Frasier, Policy Associate, SBCTC

Ami Magisos, Assistant Director, WSAC



# Agenda

- 2SHB 1893 Sect. 1 – Postsecondary Student Assistance
  - Student Emergency Assistant Grant (SEAG) Program Overview
  - Participating Colleges
- ESSB 5800 – Homeless College Students – Pilot Program
  - Pilot Program Overview
  - Participating Colleges and Proposed Accommodations





# **Postsecondary Student Assistance (2SHB 1893)**

# Program Overview

- Allows Washington Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs) to provide monetary assistance to students experiencing unforeseen emergencies or situations that affect the student's ability to attend classes.
- Criteria for Colleges
  - low-barrier access
  - ALL students eligible, not just those defined as “needy”
  - Disbursement prioritization defined
- Program Requirements
  - Funds are for monetary aid to students
  - FAFSA application cannot be required
  - Students must submit requests in writing



# Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG) Program

## Program Principles

- Trust Students
- Be Timely
- Create a Network of Support
- Be Free of Bias/  
Discrimination
- Track Outcomes/ Provide Follow-up
- Leverage Available Resources

## Delivery Model

- Student Outreach
- Request Process
- Review & Decision Process
- Notification Process
- Disbursement Process
- Follow-up Process

## SEAG Program Colleges

- Centralia College
- Walla Walla Community College
- Skagit Valley College
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- Lower Columbia College
- Shoreline Community College
- Clark College
- Tacoma Community College
- Peninsula College
- Seattle Central College
- Edmonds Community College
- Green River College
- Whatcom Community College
- Grays Harbor College
- Pierce College District
- North Seattle College



# **Homeless College Students – Pilot Program (ESSB 5800)**

# Program Overview

- Two Universities and Four Community or Technical Colleges
- Provide accommodations to students experiencing homelessness, housing security or who were in the foster care system at the time of high school completion
  - Access to laundry facilities
  - Access to storage
  - Access to locker rooms or shower facilities
  - Reduced-price meals or meal plans
  - Access to food banks
  - Access to technology
  - Access to short-term housing or housing assistance
- Provide students with community resource information

# Pilot Evaluation

- Minimum reporting requirements
  - Program-eligible students attending during pilot program
  - Program-eligible students assisted by the pilot program
  - Accommodation strategies
  - Legislative recommendations to better serve students
- Formative & Summative Evaluation
  - Additional metrics based on accommodation type
- Learning Community

## Pilot Colleges

- Eastern Washington University
- Western Washington University
- Edmonds Community College
- South Puget Sound Community College
- 2 TBD
  
- Colleges not selected are asked to participate
  - Learning Community
  - Data Collection
  - Providing accommodations



## Pilot – Eastern Washington University

- **Dedicated case management** by trained EWU graduate student joining the existing Student Care Team.
- **Increased coordination and new partnerships** with area public benefits providers and community-based organizations.
- **Short-term housing assistance** on campus for seasonal breaks and summer.
- **Food card expansion** by 50% each year.



## Pilot – Western Washington University

- **Study and Strategy:** On-going student focus groups and survey, leading to institutional strategic plan to meet needs
- **Marketing strategy** and on-campus media campaign
- **Student outreach and campus awareness** in partnership with Office of Off Campus Living and faculty: Events, Landlords Work Group, faculty training
- **Accommodations:** Dedicated case management, Homestays program for breaks, laundry supports, emergency/transitional housing accommodations, SNAP support and EBT retailer application
- **University work group and dedicated staff** to coordinate and expand services on- and off-campus



## Pilot – Edmonds Community College

- **Case Management:** Housing Support Navigator from the JK Foundation
- **Short-term/Long-term housing:** rental assistance students at risk of homelessness; rapid re-housing through community partners, and hotel vouchers for temporary shelter until additional resources can be identified.
- **Food:** Campus and community food pantries partnering to provide food, hygiene products and \$25 grocery store cards.
- **Transportation:** bus and gas cards.
- **Laundry:** vouchers to use at Laundry Mat across the street from campus.
- **Shower and Locker Facilities:** accessible at EdCC's Seaview Gym with extended hours and be made available through college breaks.
- **Technology:** loaner lap-tops and 24 hour Wi-Fi access on campus.
- **Mailstops:** student mail stop provided for students without permanent address.



## Pilot – South Puget Sound Community College

- **Case Management:** Student Housing Staff will connect students with housing resources.
- **Short-term/Long-term Housing:** SPSCC will lease units in apartment buildings near campus to provide immediate housing to students.
- **Food:** reduced-price meal plans through on-campus culinary program.
- **Laundry, Showers and Lockers:** SPCC will supply laundry soap, locks and personal hygiene products in addition to access to shower/locker facilities.
- **Technology:** Student Housing Staff member will connect student with loaner laptop options on campus.
- **Mailstops:** Student Life and Mail Services will create secure space to receive mail.

# Feedback & Engagement

- Questions
- Collaborate in Learning Communities
- Contact Us:

Ami Magisos, WSAC, 360-753-7823, [amim@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:amim@wsac.wa.gov)

Jessica Porter, SBCTC, 360-704-3902, [jporter@sbctc.edu](mailto:jporter@sbctc.edu)

Dr. Erin Frasier, SBCTC, 360-704-7339, [efrasier@sbctc.edu](mailto:efrasier@sbctc.edu)



# Community Eligibility Provision in Washington

**Leanne Eko, RD, SNS**

Director, Child Nutrition Services  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

# What is the Community Eligibility Provision?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows high poverty schools to provide meals to all students at no cost to families.



# Community Eligibility Provision

- CEP may be implemented at a single school, a group of schools, or an entire district.
  - To participate in the program, the school, group of schools, or district must have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of 40% or higher.
- The ISP is the percentage of students who are *Directly Certified* for free meals.



# Community Eligibility Provision

## Direct Certification

Process where students are directly enrolled for free meals based on their familial situation:

- SNAP
- FDPIR
- Those experiencing homelessness,
- Foster children
- Migrant



# Meal Claiming: How Districts Get Reimbursement

## Traditional Claiming: Individual Student Data

Districts are reimbursed for each meal based on the student who received that meal. Per-meal reimbursement amounts reflect the student's eligibility for free, reduced-price, or paid meals.

Eligibility data comes from Direct Certification or NSLP Meal Applications.

# Meal Claiming: How Districts Get Reimbursement

## CEP Claiming: "Community" Data

Districts are reimbursed for each meal using a formula based on the school or district ISP.

This ISP multiplied by 1.6 to get the Free Claiming Percentage, the percentage of all meals that are reimbursed at the free rate.

All other meals are reimbursed at the paid rate.

# Examples of ISP and Claiming Percentages:

Students	Identified Students	ISP	X 1.6 Multiplier	% Meals Claimed
400	160	40%	64	64% Free   36% Paid
400	200	50%	80	80% Free   20% Paid
400	250	62.5%	100	100% Free

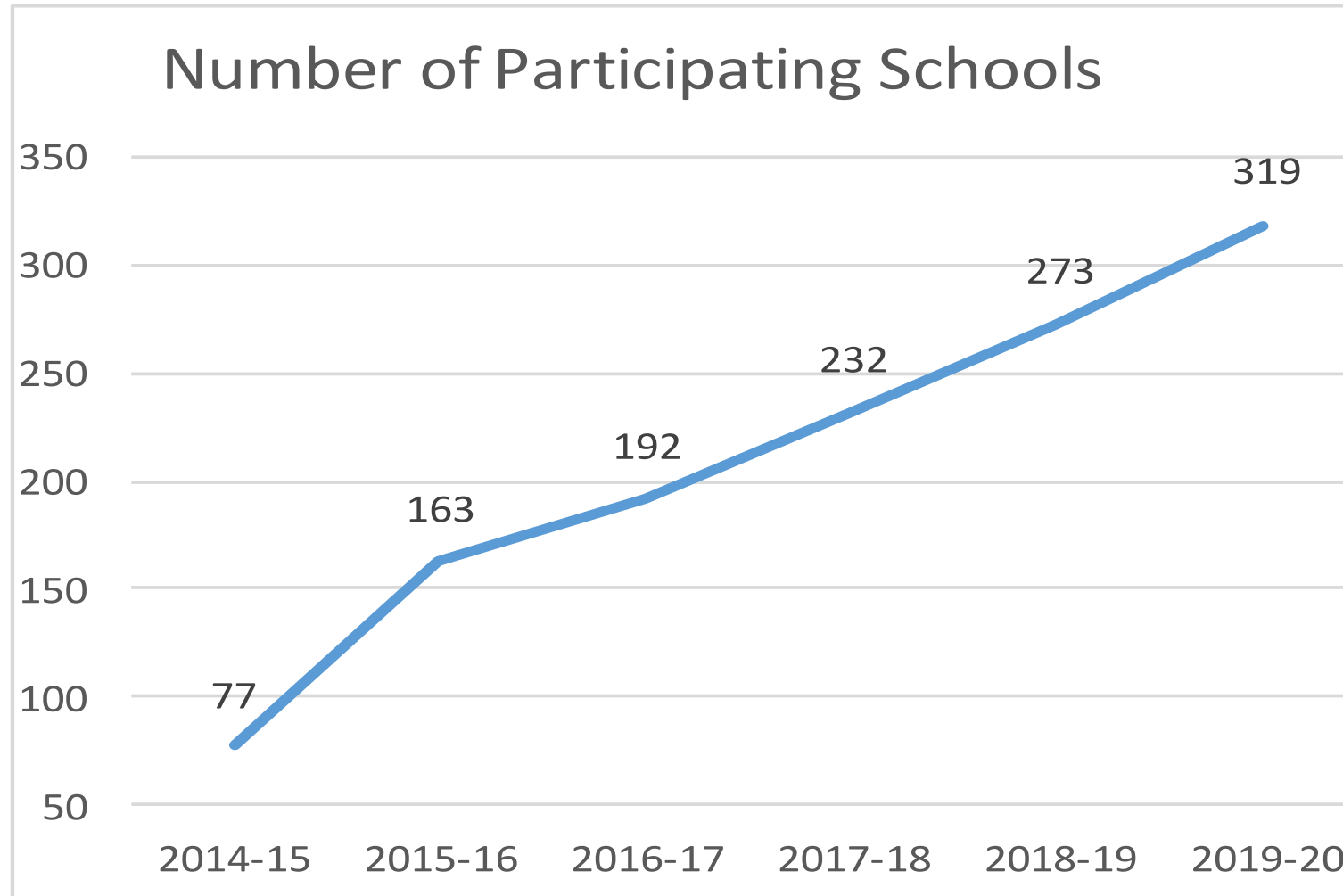
Federal Reimbursement Rates		
	Free	Paid
Breakfast	\$1.84	\$0.31
Lunch	\$3.41	\$0.32

# Challenges Facing CEP

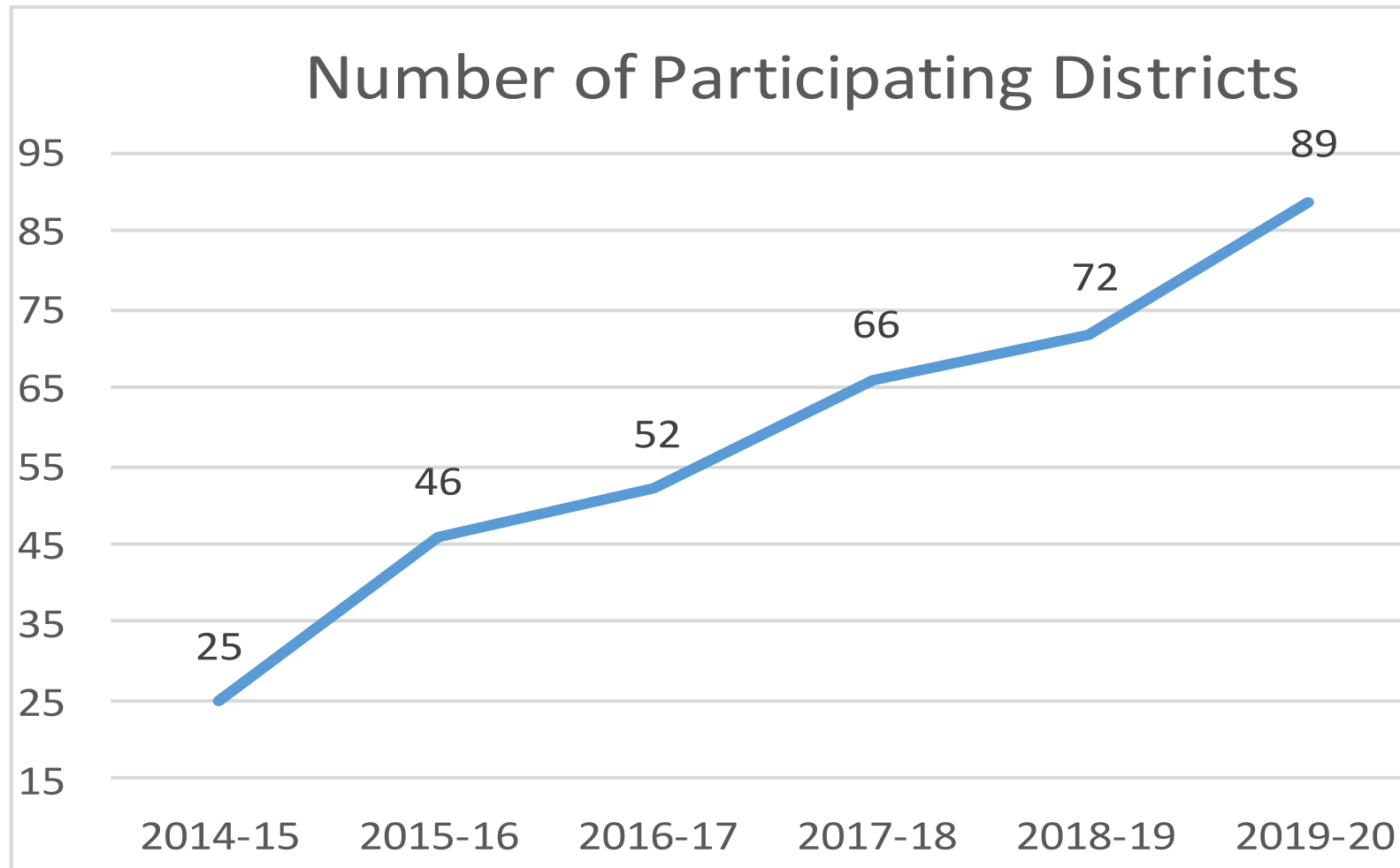
- **Individual Student poverty data:**
  - Requires new procedures and processes
  - Family Income Survey
  - Potential impact to State Funding Programs (Learning Assistance Programs)
- **Local funding to make up difference with lower ISP**



# CEP Trends in Washington State



# CEP Trends in Washington State



# CEP Impacts in Washington State

Last year, CEP ensured that over **110,000 students** across Washington had access to two free meals every school day.

This number continues to grow - we have added **46 new CEP schools** this year!



## Poverty Reduction - Five-Year Strategic Plan

- Align with Governor's Poverty Reduction Workgroup 10 year plan
- Specifically focus on:
  - Intergenerational poverty
  - Workfirst/TANF
  - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



# Strategic Themes – Work in Progress



## Strategy 1

**Acknowledge, understand, and take action to undo structural racism and the effects of historical trauma in state policy, programs, and practice.**

- Mandatory training for employees
- Racial equity outcomes and measures in contracting
- Hiring and retention practices

## Strategy 2

**Make equal space for the power and influence of people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality in decision-making.**

- Process for truth and reconciliation of past injustices and historical trauma
- Structurally including people most affected by poverty in decision-making

## Strategy 3

**Invest in equitable income growth and wealth-building among people with low and moderate incomes.**

- Increase affordable housing
- No- or low-cost financial resources
- Affordable, high quality early care and education

## Strategy 4

**Generously invest in the health and well-being of families with young children and youth as they transition to adulthood.**

- Give babies the best possible start in life
- Child savings account program
- Long-term acting contraceptives and reproductive care

## Strategy 5

**Build an integrated health, human service, housing, and workforce development continuum of care that addresses the holistic needs of individuals, children, and families.**

- Base assistance on the real costs of what it takes to make ends meet
- Alleviate the costs of living in poverty
- Inspire hope and build resilience

## Strategy 6

**Ensure a just transition to the future of work.**

- Set an “economic floor”
- Accelerate pathways for immigrant and refugee accreditation in the U.S.
- Invest in upskilling and training



## Discussion:

- Questions?
- Feedback?

Transforming  
Lives

# Public Comment

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

