

WG-A Participating Sponsors

Dear WG-A Participating Sponsor,

In 2023, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) contracted ANEW to support the WA Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) program. This work has been a collaboration between ANEW, WSAC, the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), and many apprenticeship sponsors and other stakeholders.

WSAC is facing significant budget cuts in the 2025-2027 biennium, like all Washington State agencies. WSAC decided not to renew the contract with ANEW, aligning with agency priorities.

WSAC's WG-A team has been tasked with ensuring this transition has minimal impact on your apprentices and your program's participation in WG-A. The work that was contracted out to ANEW will be handled by a network of regional program managers. There will be some notable changes from ANEW's processes, such as the funding application your apprentices complete. These changes are outlined below.

On behalf of WSAC, I want to personally thank the ANEW team for the work they have contributed to advancing WG-A over the past two years. ANEW has been a valuable partner in the expansion of WG-A and has been a committed advocate for State-Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Please take a moment to review this document. If you have questions or concerns, please contact my team at apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov or 888.535.0747, option 9. We thank you in advance for your patience as we respond to your inquiries, and appreciate your understanding as we work together through this transition.

Sincerely,

Inez Olive

Q: As a participating WG-A Apprenticeship Sponsor, do we need to do anything?

A: If you have not yet completed your annual renewal form, please complete and submit this form directly to WSAC via email to apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov. Additionally, you will need to sign a 2025-2026 Program Participation Agreement.

If you already completed your renewal form and 2025-2026 Program Participation Agreement, WSAC does not require anything else at this time.

Once the 2025-2026 WG-A Funding Application is available, WSAC will provide you with a communication toolkit to support your apprentices in accessing the funding application.

Q: What changes will impact our apprenticeship program's participation in WG-A?

A: WSAC anticipates the changes will reduce the administrative burden for participating WG-A Apprenticeship Sponsors by eliminating ANEW's process of Sponsor verification. WSAC will adopt a process that utilizes data reported to Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) in the Apprenticeship Registration & Tracking System (ARTS) public database to verify apprentice registration, standing, and hours completed.

In situations where L&I ARTS is insufficient to support an apprentice receiving WG-A, WSAC may ask apprentices to submit alternative documentation to support their eligibility. The alternative documentation may require an apprentice to obtain a signature from their Apprenticeship Sponsor.

Q: Are there any expected changes to the WG-A program?

A: There are no expected changes to the WG-A program from the transition from ANEW to WSAC; however, WSAC wants to take this opportunity to highlight legislative changes. The 2025-2027 Biennium Budget Bill does amend the maximum value WG-A Award to apprentices with a Median Family Income (MFI) of 60% or less beginning July 1, 2025. (The current Fiscal Year 2024-2025 maximum WG-A Award is given to apprentices with an MFI of 65% or lower.) Additionally, for FY 2026-2027, the maximum award is reduced to 50% of the Community & Technical College full-time, full-year award.

WSAC has a new email address for apprentices to reach out to if they have questions regarding the change, the application process, or with their award: wga@wsac.wa.gov.

WSAC's Adult Pathways Regional Program Managers will support WG-A application processing and awarding.

Q: What is not changing about the WG-A Program?

A: Sponsors who have questions should continue to communicate with WG-A Program Administration staff via email to apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov.

Eligibility requirements, including Satisfactory Program Progress (SPP) requirements for renewal awards, are still the same. Eligibility is re-evaluated on these requirements each year, which means that apprentices may not be eligible every year.

Apprentices can still petition for special circumstances to their funding application.

Q: How will apprentices apply for WG-A?

A: WSAC is working to have apprentices apply for WG-A funding using an online application form – like the application format ANEW implemented. WSAC's WG-A team will provide apprenticeship program sponsors with a communication toolkit to help direct current and new apprentices to apply.

WSAC will also be using email to communicate these changes to apprentices who have received WG-A during Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Q: If apprentices have questions about their award, who should they contact?

A: Apprentices who have questions about WG-A, the application process, or their award can reach out to wga@wsac.wa.gov or via phone by calling 888.535.0747, option 9 and request a Regional Program Manager.

If apprentices have any issues or want to offer feedback on the WG-A program, they can send their questions and comments via email to apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov or call 888.535.0747, option 9, and requesting to speak with a WG-A Program Administrator.

Sponsors who have questions or concerns should continue to communicate with WG-A Program Administration staff via email to apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov.

WG-A Stakeholders

Dear WG-A Stakeholder,

In 2023, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) contracted ANEW to support the WA Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) program in awarding apprentices financial assistance. This work has been a collaboration between ANEW, WSAC, the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), and many apprenticeship sponsors and other stakeholders.

WSAC is facing significant budget cuts in the 2025-2027 biennium, like all Washington State agencies. WSAC decided not to renew the contract with ANEW, aligning with agency priorities.

In February 2025, WSAC received several responses through a Request for Information (RFI) on opportunities to significantly expand outreach to Eastern Washington. Upon reviewing these responses, WSAC identified that current staff already provide for a regional approach with Program Managers. By shifting to a more regional focused model, WSAC is optimistic that the negative impacts from budget cuts can be minimized while allowing the agency to maximize existing resources for apprentices and adult learners.

On behalf of WSAC, I want to personally thank the ANEW team for the work they have contributed to advancing the WG-A program over the past two years. ANEW has been a valuable partner in the expansion of WG-A and has been a committed advocate for State-Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Please take a moment to review the responses we have to some anticipated questions. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact my team at apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov or 888.535.0747, option 9. We thank you in advance for your patience as we respond to your inquiries, and appreciate your understanding as we work through these changes.

Sincerely,

Inez Olive

Q: What are the anticipated impacts to participating WG-A apprenticeship sponsors?

A: At this time, participating WG-A apprenticeship sponsors will continue as usual through annual renewal processes. WSAC hopes to minimize any inconvenience this change has to our participating apprenticeship sponsors.

WSAC anticipates the changes will reduce the administrative burden for participating WG-A Apprenticeship Sponsors by eliminating ANEW's process of Sponsor verification. WSAC will adopt a process that utilizes data reported to Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) in the Apprenticeship Registration & Tracking System (ARTS) public database to verify apprentice registration, standing, and hours completed.

WSAC will also be communicating changes directly via email to each 2024-2025 WG-A recipient who has not completed their program.

Q: Are there any expected changes to the WG-A program?

A: There are no expected changes to the WG-A program because of this change; however, WSAC wants to take this opportunity to highlight legislative changes. The 2025-2027 Biennium Budget Bill does amend the maximum value WG-A Award to apprentices with a Median Family Income (MFI) of 60% or less beginning July 1, 2025. For the current Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the maximum WG-A Award is given to apprentices with an MFI of 65% or less. For the following FY 2026-2027, the maximum award is reduced to 50% of the Community & Technical College full-time, full-year award.

WSAC has setup a new email address for apprentices to reach out to if they have questions regarding the change, the application process, or with their award: wga@wsac.wa.gov.

WG-A application processing and awarding will be supported by Adult Pathways Regional Program Managers.

Q: What is not changing about the WG-A Program?

A: Sponsors who have questions should continue to communicate with WG-A Program Administration staff via email to apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov.

Eligibility requirements, including Satisfactory Program Progress (SPP) requirements for renewal awards, are still the same. Eligibility is re-evaluated on these requirements each year, which means that apprentices may not be eligible every year.

Apprentices can still petition for special circumstances to their funding application.

No changes are anticipated for Sponsors participating in WG-A using a community and technical college's financial aid office to process their WG-A application and award. Sponsors who have a partnership with one of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) campuses for their related/supplemental instruction (RSI) can still have their

participation setup to use a campus financial aid office. For more information, please email apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov.

WG-A Recipients

Dear WG-A Recipient,

In 2023, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) contracted with ANEW to administer financial assistance through the WA Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) program. This work has been a collaboration between your Sponsor, ANEW, WSAC, the WA Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), and others.

WSAC, like every other state agency, will be facing significant budget cuts in the upcoming 2025-2027 biennium. To best align with agency priorities and ensure continued access to WG-A financial assistance for current recipients like yourself, WSAC has made the difficult decision to discontinue our contract with ANEW.

WSAC is working to minimize any negative impact this change has to the WG-A program through processing applications internally. While we are working to minimize negative impacts, there will be some notable changes from ANEW's processes. These include updates to how you apply, how you complete additional documents required to determine your eligibility and aid offer, and how you accept your aid offer. These changes are outlined below.

On behalf of WSAC, I want to personally thank the ANEW team for the work they have contributed to advancing the WG-A program over the past two years. ANEW has been a valuable partner in the expansion of WG-A and has been a committed advocate for State-Registered Apprenticeship programs.

We have included a robust list of anticipated questions and answers below. Please take a moment to review the questions below. We have created an email address (wga@wsac.wa.gov) for you to reach out to if you have additional questions regarding this change, questions on applying for WG-A when the application opens, or questions regarding your 2025-2026 WG-A award. You can also reach them by phone at 888.525.0747, option 9, and request for a Regional Program Manager.

If you have a concern or would like to offer feedback on WG-A, please contact the WG-A Program Administrators at apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov or by phone at 888.535.0747, option 9, and request a WG-A Program Administrator.

We thank you in advance for your patience as we respond to your inquiries, and appreciate your understanding as we work through these changes.

Sincerely,

Inez Olive

Q: Does this mean that I cannot apply for financial assistance from the WA Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) program?

A: No, the change does not mean that you are prevented from applying for WG-A.

There will be a change to the application itself, but you will continue to be able to apply for WG-A. WSAC will communicate via email when the 2025-2026 WG-A Funding Application is available for you to apply. We anticipate it opening on or around July 1, 2025.

Q: What if I am still waiting for my 2024-2025 WG-A Award?

A: Please reach out to ANEW via email at wga@anewcareer.org and Cc apprenticeship@wsac.wa.gov to follow-up on your 2024-2025 WG-A Award.

Q: What is changing about the WG-A program?

A: All components that were handled by ANEW will be shifted over to WSAC. This includes:

- The funding application form to apply for WG-A. More information on how to apply for funding through WG-A will be communicated with you via email when the application is available.
- You will need to setup a Statewide Vendor Number so that WSAC can process payment to you. More information will be communicated to you when the application is available.
- If you were awarded WG-A by ANEW for an award period that coincides with your registration anniversary date, WSAC will be shifting your awarding period to align with our fiscal year.
- If you were granted an appeal by ANEW for a dependency override, you will likely need to submit a new appeal to WSAC.
- WSAC will be depending on data available in the L&I ARTS database to track your standing and completion of hours for Satisfactory Program Progress (SPP) rather than requiring your Sponsor to report directly to us.

There are program elements that would have changed regardless of the change with ANEW. These include:

- The Median Family Income (MFI) ranges and WG-A Award Values. These are established each fiscal year and will be published by WSAC once finalized.
- The WA Bridge Grant for WG-A recipients that received the maximum award in 2024-2025 has been eliminated due to budget cuts.

Q: What is not changing about the WG-A Program?

- Eligibility requirements, including Satisfactory Program Progress (SPP) requirements for renewal awards, are still the same. Your eligibility is re-evaluated on these requirements each year, which means that you may not be eligible every year.
- You can still petition for special circumstances.