

# BEYOND THE HEADLINES

At a Glance: Jobs, Workers & the Economy



JUNE 2013 | FOCUS: WASHINGTON STATE

## Success Story: Washington's Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) Program

In a climate of steep cuts to many workforce development programs over the past several years, Washington State's Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) Program stands out as a remarkable story of growth and success. A recent story in *The Seattle Times* [[link to article](#)] highlighted the BFET program and called attention to current efforts in Congress to invest in national pilot programs modeled on the BFET's success. This edition of *Beyond the Headlines* provides some quick facts illustrating the story of BFET.

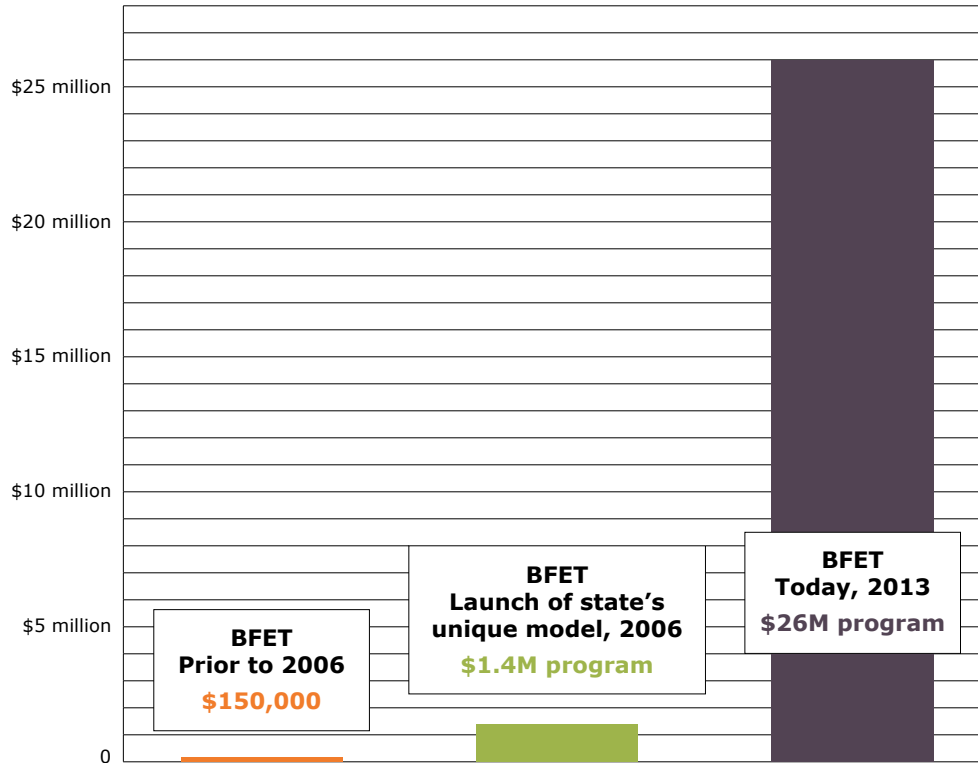
### What is BFET?

- BFET is Washington's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T). Our unique model was launched in October 2005.
- BFET is a **public-private partnership**, in which federal SNAP E&T dollars match investments made by state and local government and philanthropy in community colleges and community-based organizations to provide employment and training services to low-income individuals on Basic Food (food stamps).
- The goal of BFET is to help individuals **achieve self-sufficiency** through the attainment of more skills and education and better-paying jobs.
- BFET is an example of **collective impact**: it has spurred colleges and community agencies to better partner for improved outcomes.

# Growth of the BFET Program

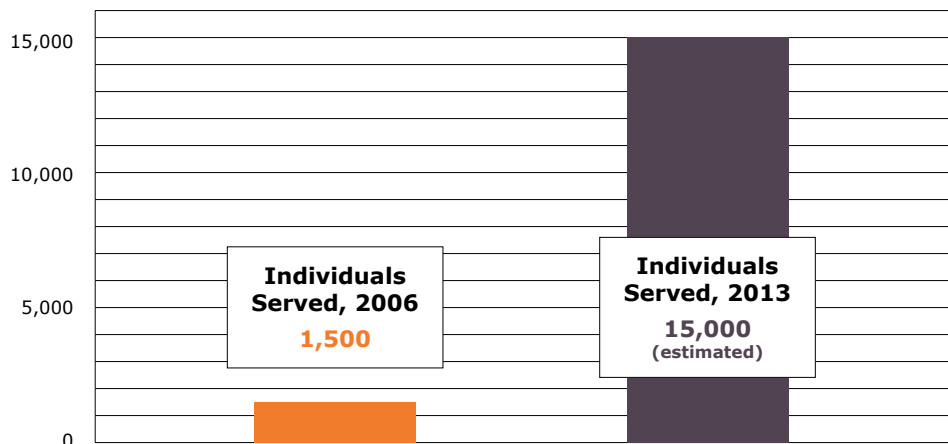
**CHART 1:**

Growth of the BFET Investment, FFY 2006 – 2013



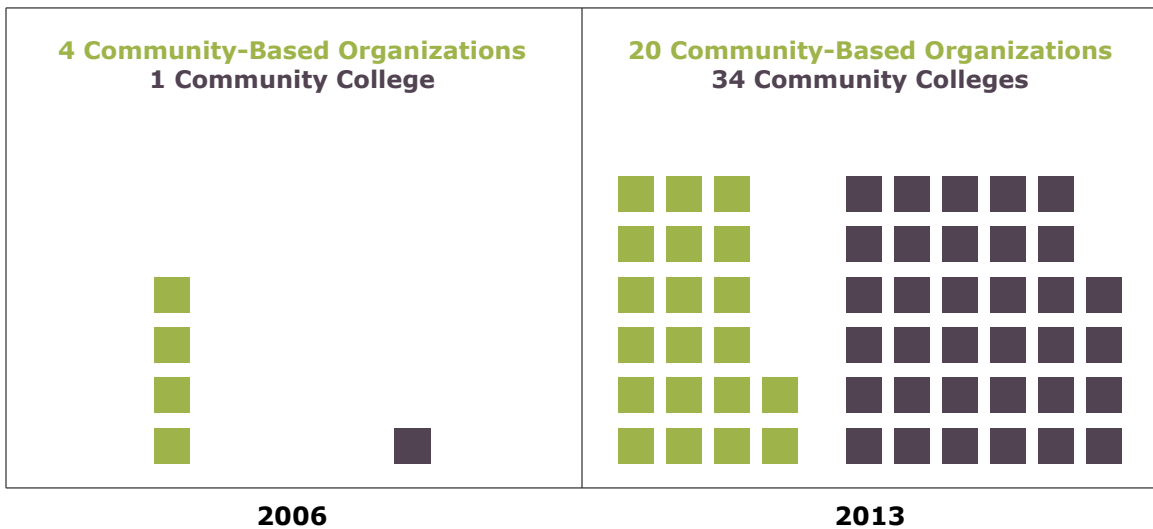
**CHART 2:**

Growth of Low-Income Individuals Served, FFY 2006 – 2013



### CHART 3:

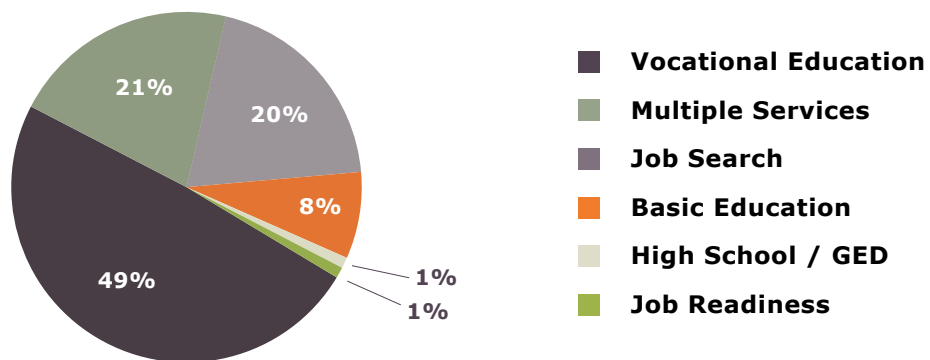
Growth of Participating Service Providers, FFY 2006 - 2013



### Outcomes

#### OUTCOMES #1:

BFET Participants by Service Provided



## OUTCOMES #2:

Employment and Wage Rates<sup>i</sup>

57%

Employed at  
1 year post-  
program exit

68%

Employed  
2 years post-  
program exit

Median  
Wages:

Up to \$11.44  
per hour<sup>ii</sup>

i. Measured using data from 2007 – 2011

ii. Participants receiving vocational training

**BEYOND THE HEADLINES:** Policy & Labor Market Updates for Those Working to Help Low-Income and Low-Skill Individuals Advance through Education, Training & Living-Wage Jobs

### About Seattle Jobs Initiative

Seattle Jobs Initiative creates opportunities for students, workers and business to succeed by helping education and job training programs meet the demands of a new economy. We find and apply solutions for people to gain the skills they need for good jobs that create prosperity for all in today's marketplace.

*Supported by the City of Seattle Office of Economic Development*

### Contact Information

For questions or suggestions, please email David Kaz, SJI Director of Policy and Development at: [dkaz@seattlejobsinit.com](mailto:dkaz@seattlejobsinit.com)

