

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

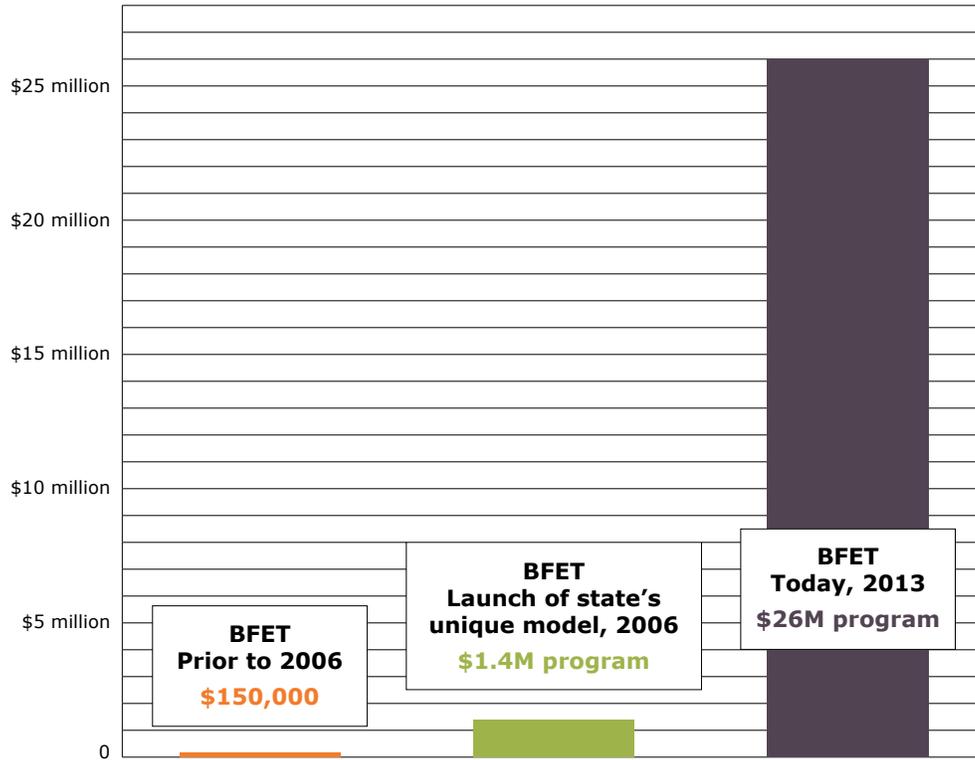


CHART 2:

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

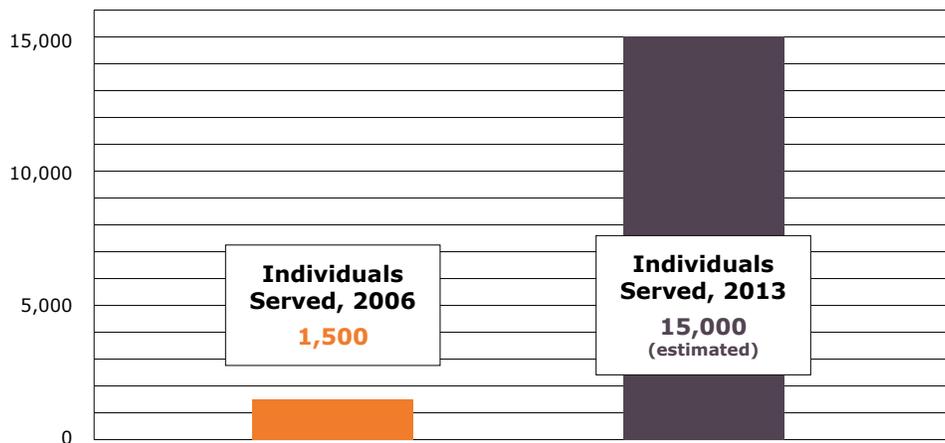
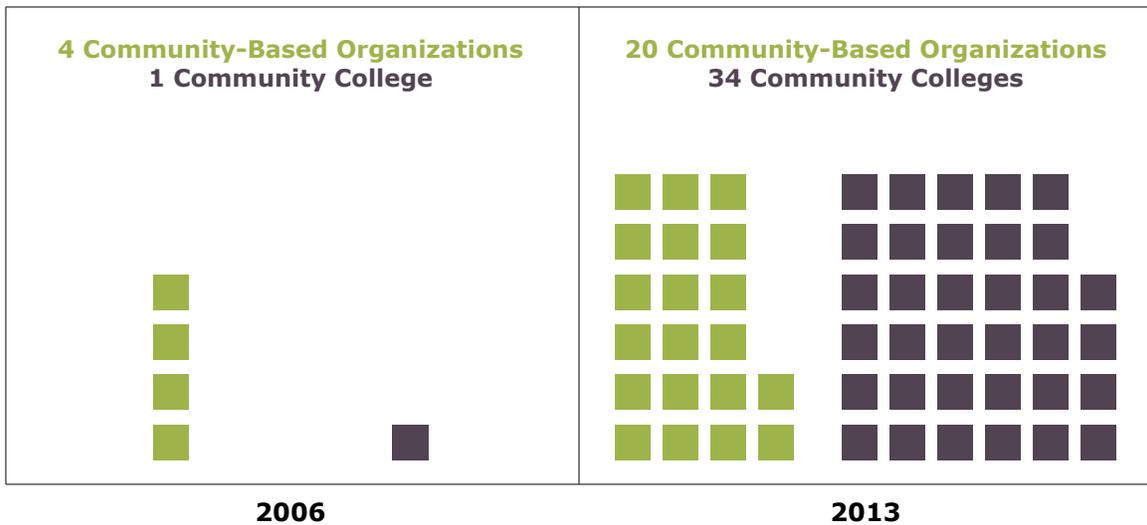


CHART 3:

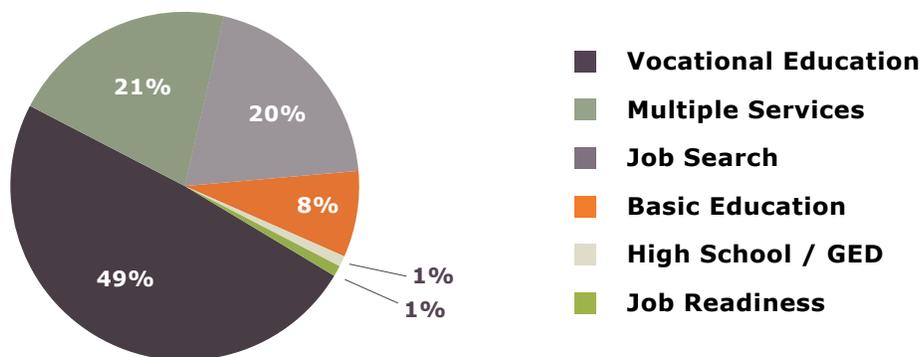
Growth of Participating Service Providers, FFY 2006 - 2013



Outcomes

OUTCOMES #1:

BFET Participants by Service Provided



OUTCOMES #2:

Employment and Wage Ratesⁱ

57%

Employed at
1 year post-
program exit

68%

Employed
2 years post-
program exit

Median
Wages:

Up to \$11.44
per hourⁱⁱ

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

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