

# Teacher Shortage Grants Status Update

WACTE Meeting: April 26, 2017

**J. Lee Schultz**

Assistant Director for Teacher Shortage





# Status update

- Student Teaching Grant application cycle results
- Upcoming launch of Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant



# Student Teaching Grant

- Supports preparation program candidates with financial need who are student teaching at Title I eligible public schools



# Student Teaching Grant Application Cycle Results

- Application window: February 1 – March 3
- Demand far exceeds available funding, with five times more qualified applicants than we can fund

INITIAL	<i>n</i>	%
Total number of applicants	433	100%
Applicants that met minimum qualifications (initial estimate prior to finaid certification)	350	81%
Applicants initially selected	70	16% of all 20% of qualified



# Student Teaching Grant Application Cycle Results

- Application window: February 1 – March 3
- Demand far exceeds available funding, with five times more qualified applicants than we can fund

<b>FINAL</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>%</b>
Total number of applicants	433	100%
Applicants that met minimum qualifications <i>(final estimate after finaid certification)</i>	348	80%
Applicants officially awarded	68	16% of all 20% of qualified



# Student Teaching Grant Award Amounts

- Awards for current academic year
- WSAC worked with financial aid administrators to certify eligibility and award amounts
  - Amount is customized to individual's financial aid package
  - Most awardees (60 out of 68) received the maximum of \$7,250
- Notifications sent out by end of March
- Payments sent to institutions first week of April
- FY17 appropriation of \$468,000 fully spent



# Student Teaching Grant Applicant Characteristics

	All applicants (N = 420 - 433)*	Awardees (N = 63 - 68)*
Preparation programs represented (out of 21 eligible providers)	20	18
Students of color	37%	37%
Males	19%	21%
Pursuing endorsement in a shortage area	92%	95%
Median family income	\$21,074	\$1,162

*\*Sample size varies because some applicants chose to skip optional questions on the application*



# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

- Provides financial aid to preparation program candidates who commit to teaching in designated shortage areas
- On track for May 1 launch of application
- Details at [readyssetgrad.org/teachers](https://readyssetgrad.org/teachers)





# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

## Minimum Qualifications: Enrollment and Need

- 2017-18 enrollment in eligible teacher preparation program
  - Enrolled at least half-time
  - Meeting satisfactory academic progress
- Unmet financial need
  - Complete FAFSA or WASFA by May 19
  - Requires financial aid certification





# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

## Minimum Qualifications: Commit to Obligation

- Two full-time school years for each year of funding received
- Earn service credit at double the rate for teaching in shortage area, thereby fulfilling the obligation in half the time (one school year)
  - Can be any of the listed areas, not just what they applied under
- Acceptable positions:
  - Must be at a Washington preK-12 public school
  - Classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or other instructional positions as pre-approved by WSAC
  - Part-time positions receive prorated service credit as long as they meet minimum of 40 days



# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

## Minimum Qualifications: Commit to Obligation

- Grant converts to a loan if recipient fails to fulfill teaching service obligation
  - Grace period and potential deferments described in promissory note
- Amount due proportionate to the unsatisfied portion of the teaching service obligation, plus interest and fees



# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

## Minimum Qualifications: Other

- No unsatisfied Washington State service obligations
- Not owe a repayment to any state or federal grant or scholarship
- Not be in default on a state or federal student loan
- Not pursue a degree in theology



# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

## Awarding Priorities

- Traditionally underrepresented groups among the teacher workforce
  - Includes consideration of demographic underrepresentation, first generation college student (or foster care student), and multilingual skills
- Financial need
- Enrollment in an alternative route teacher certification program
- School district commitment to hire
  - Required of applicants addressing unique local need
  - Optional for other applicants
- Experience working with children and/or youth



# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant

## Award amounts

- Maximum of \$10,000 for AY 2017-18
  - Depending on financial need and funds available
  - Customized to fit the individual's financial aid package
  - Comes after other state and federal grant aid
  - May be prorated for part-time enrollment and based on number of terms enrolled
- Payments sent to institutions at the beginning of each term
- WSAC anticipates about 50 awards to expend FY17 appropriation of \$468,000



# Teacher Shortage Conditional Grant Timeline

- Application open **May 1 – May 26**
- Initial selection, financial aid certification, award determinations
- Notifications of award status sent **by end of June**, fully committing the funds in FY17 for disbursement during the 2017-18 academic year
- Awardees can accept, decline, or request lower amount
- Those accepting sign promissory note





# Continue the conversation



**J. Lee Schultz**

360-753-7791

[JLeeS@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:JLeeS@wsac.wa.gov)

**Becky Thompson**

360-753-7840

[BeckyT@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:BeckyT@wsac.wa.gov)

[readyssetgrad.org/teachers](http://readyssetgrad.org/teachers)