



College Spark Washington funds programs across Washington state that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees.

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## ADVOCACY GRANTS PROGRAM

*College Spark Washington* adopted an *Advocacy Grants Program* to accelerate the adoption and implementation of policies and practices that ensure more low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees. The program supports the communication and engagement efforts by key organizations and coalitions to connect with policymakers, practitioners, and the public about the importance of, and best practices to achieve, college readiness and success.

The pilot goal of the Advocacy Grants Program is to support the alignment of Washington's high school and postsecondary systems through implementation of the Common Core State Standards. With the state's adoption of the Common Core in 2011 and plans for full implementation in the 2013-14 school year, developing systems that support implementation, including ensuring curricular and instructional resources and meaningful professional development are available, will lead to a policy that is well integrated, publicly supported, and sustainable.

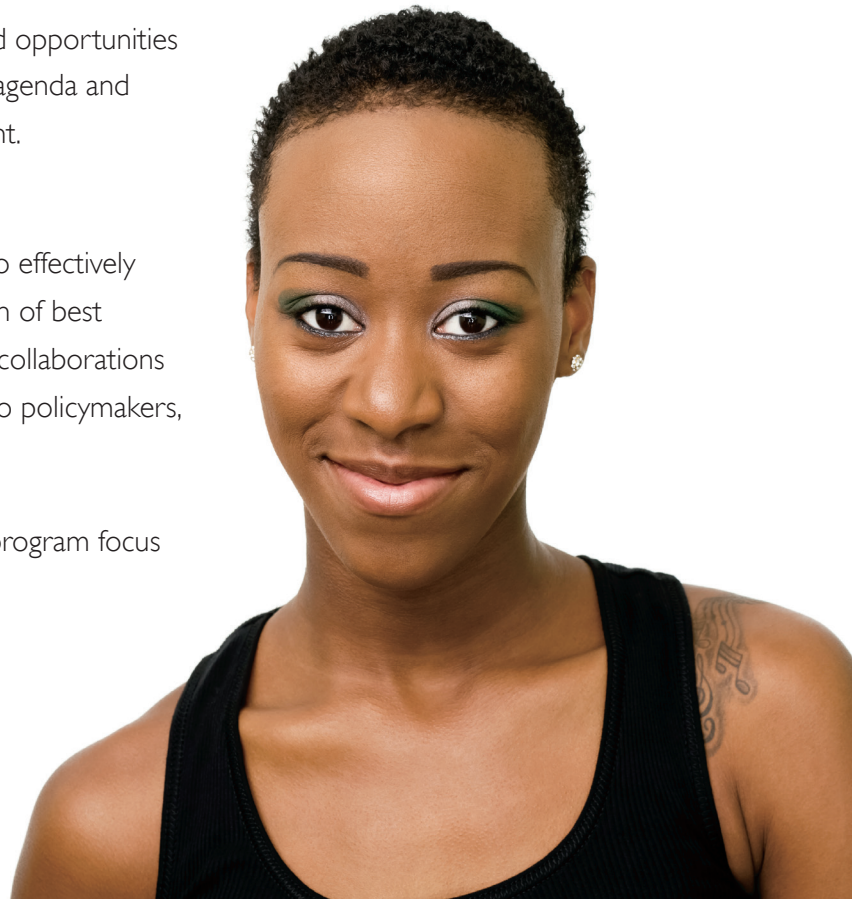
### STATE-LEVEL ADVOCACY GRANTS

These grants support key advocacy organizations and opportunities at the state-level that emphasize a college readiness agenda and strategies that build public awareness and engagement.

### LOCAL-LEVEL ADVOCACY GRANTS

These grants build the capacity of regional alliances to effectively advocate for policy improvement and implementation of best practices by identifying exemplary organizations and collaborations whose expertise as practitioners can be persuasive to policymakers, school and district leaders, parents and voters.

Other types of advocacy grants consistent with the program focus may be made as circumstances warrant.



## AVENUES FOR ADVOCATING CHANGE

Advocacy is a process for individuals or organizations to influence the adoption or implementation of policies and resource allocation. Examples of permissible activities include community organizing, public education, research, training, educational conferences, and communicating with stakeholders.

Funding to support lobbying, including communication with state policymakers or their employees who may participate in formulating legislation or grassroots lobbying directly to the public, is not allowed.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more information, contact Communications Officer Thai Craig for an initial discussion regarding organization eligibility and any potential advocacy grant application. Organizations must receive approval to submit prior to consideration. *Contact Thai at [thai@collegespark.org](mailto:thai@collegespark.org) or 206.282.4528*

**College Spark Washington** funds programs across Washington state that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees. College Spark began supporting access to higher education in 1978 by managing student loan programs. In 2004, the loan operations were sold and an endowment created to support its grant-making mission. Since then, College Spark has committed more than \$32 million to support college readiness and degree completion.

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### CONTACT US

College Spark Washington  
190 Queen Anne Avenue N., Suite 260  
Seattle, WA 98109-4926  
206.461.7248

[www.collegespark.org](http://www.collegespark.org)

[info@collegespark.org](mailto:info@collegespark.org)

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