

Washington's young people are seeking career connected learning opportunities like job shadows, internships, and apprenticeships. Washington's economy needs competitive candidates for real jobs in our state: over the next decade the vast majority of job openings will continue to require postsecondary credentials - degrees, apprenticeships, and industry-aligned certificates and licenses.

Career Connect Washington's (CCW) statewide education and employer network is rapidly growing to meet these demands, supporting high-quality academic and work-based experiences with a focus on students who are furthest from opportunity.

Now is the time to protect the progress we have made in providing young people pathways to family-sustaining careers.



## Funding to fill program gaps in high-demand industry areas:

- Governor Inslee proposed adding \$6M for the biennium to the career connected learning grant pool to fill a hole left by the loss of federal WIOA discretionary funds and maintain the current grant pool level.
- Grants help build career connected learning programs in high-demand industry sectors and fill gaps in the system to provide students pathways to family-sustaining careers.

## Funding for CCW:

1. Enables young people to connect directly to education and training, credentials, and careers.
2. Offers employers sustainable, diverse talent pools.

## Sustain existing Career Launch programs:

- Governor Inslee maintained \$8M in enrollment funding for Career Launch programs in the Community and Technical College (\$6M) and public four-year university systems (\$2M).
- Career Launch programs provide paid work-site experience paired with academic study to produce qualified candidates for real jobs with a valuable credential beyond a high school diploma.

**We support these appropriations and are working to ensure they remain in the final budget approved by the Legislature.**

**75%** of Washington job openings over the next decade are projected to require postsecondary credentials, and today only 40% of Washington students earn a credential beyond high school.

**86%** of Washington voters say it is important that Washington state supports career connected learning programs and apprenticeship opportunities.

**85%** of Washington voters say it is important for kids and young adults to learn about possible career paths in elementary and middle school.



**Hear from students about how career connected learning has changed their lives.**

[bit.ly/3YRtPrg](https://bit.ly/3YRtPrg)



**Learn more about how employers see the benefits of career connected learning in this example from the FredHutch LabLaunch program.**

[bit.ly/4fyRVww](https://bit.ly/4fyRVww)

## Progress Milestones



**115** Career Launch programs created since 2019

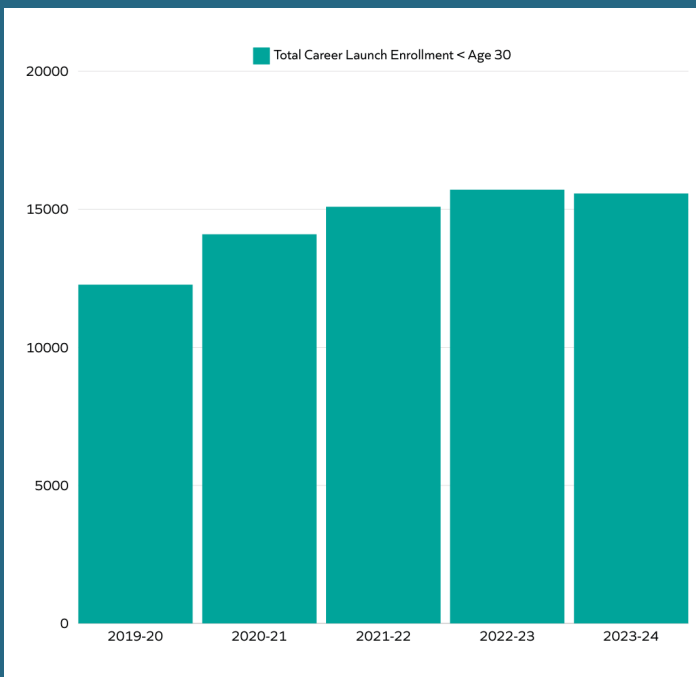


**8,424** Career Launch completions since 2019

Participation in Career Launch programs has grown **28%** since implementation of CCW legislation in 2019, despite the pandemic and related challenges.

**15,578** young people enrolled in Career Launch opportunities in the 2023-2024 school year including **12,653** registered apprentices, earning paid work-site experience and achieving valuable credentials beyond high school.

**162** program builder grants awarded to build 183 career connected learning programs across the continuum including **38 registered apprenticeships** since 2019.



**“We’ve learned a lot about real world situations: professionalism, responsibility, taking ownership of your actions, like an actual job would look for.”**

Wendy Delgado, Career Launch student, Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center