

Description of how your project fulfills one the Foundation's granting priorities:

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Division works with individuals with a wide range of academic skills. These are often people in transition with a variety of circumstances due to loss of a job, a drastic drop in income, a disability, or a change in marital status. Ninety-five percent of Adult Education students are low-income; 51% receive some form of public assistance, nearly 65% are unemployed, and 42% are women of color. Locally, the unemployment rate has been holding steady since last year at 6.3%, but this number is much higher than the 5.7% average in Washington State and 4.9% rate nationwide (WA Employment Security Dept.). Spokane County's average annual wage was \$44,050 in 2015, which is far below the estimated living wage of \$53,532 annually to support a family of four (U.S. Census, WA State Self-Sufficiency Calculator). Statistics show that income is linked directly to education. Individuals who do not hold a high school diploma have an annual income of \$15,872. Earning potential increases to \$21,824 with a GED.

The ABE Division's focus is on building individuals up in their educational experience; students are met exactly where they are at academically, emotionally, and socially. This project enhances student learning opportunities and allows for a more streamlined educational path. This grant will pay for 625 GED Ready® pretests to be used by students in the ABE Division. The GED Ready® tests provide diagnostic results for students and create prescriptive study plans. The tests also provide the opportunity to determine when students are ready for the official GED tests which increases student's confidence going into testing. A better opportunity for success in testing allows for increased opportunities in higher education and higher-wage jobs upon completion of the GED.

Description of the impact of this project on the college community:

The positive impact of providing these tests, free-of-charge, to students is significant. Students and their instructors will have accurate information on student progress and readiness for the GED test. The ability to provide support services such as this aids in retention and student achievement within the ABE Division. The GED Ready® test is the only available analytic test able to provide direct information from the same company providing the official GED test. This test-taking experience, as well as the results and diagnostic information gained from the GED Ready® gives a significant advantage to the students. This information is not available in any other format due to proprietary practices. As students complete their GED, they are able to transition to credit-bearing courses within CCS, which results in greater student achievement points leading to more funding for the Community Colleges of Spokane.

Approximate number of students who will be directly impacted by this project:

Depending on the number of pretests each student takes, this project will serve approximately 250-300 students.

Description of how results will be documented and measured:

The number of pretests will be documented on a shared drive spreadsheet accounting for the student, test subject, and outcome of the pretest. Data will also be collected on the results of the official GED test once that information becomes available.

Results from 2015-2016 grant:

The data from last year's grant is very rich, and we will continue to analyze it to work towards more student success. We purchased 692 GED Ready® tests that were taken by 325 different students as there are 4 separate GED tests. Of those GED Ready® tests taken, 74.5% of the tests were passing. Most of the students who passed a GED Ready® test completed an official GED test. The passing rate of the official GED test was 88.2% of those students who passed a Ready® test. The students who did not pass a Ready® test are still working to learn the material that will move them to a passing score. These students and their instructors are using the prescriptive diagnostic feedback from the Ready® tests to plan individual instructional programs tailored for each student. This information is extremely valuable to student success as it is individual for each student. We want to continue to build on the successes from last year's grant.

A detailed budget, timeline for actions and expenditures, and plans for finding future funds:

The budget is \$2500 to pay for 625 tests at \$4.00 each.

Item	Cost	Number of tests	Total
GED Ready®	\$4.00	625	\$2500.00

The tests will be taken over the course of the 2016-17 academic year. Other sources of funding for this project will be pursued as this is a worthwhile academic venture.