

# A Study of the Washington College Grant Program

WERA  
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# Research Questions

- How was the WCG program implemented and how did this differ from prior support?
- What is the extent to which the WCG was used by students from families with low incomes immediately after their students' high school graduation and throughout their postsecondary experience?
- What is the pattern of postsecondary outcomes in the state for students from low-income families before and after the WCG program was implemented?
- What is the effect of students' receipt of WCG funding on their postsecondary education outcomes? Does this relationship differ across funding levels?

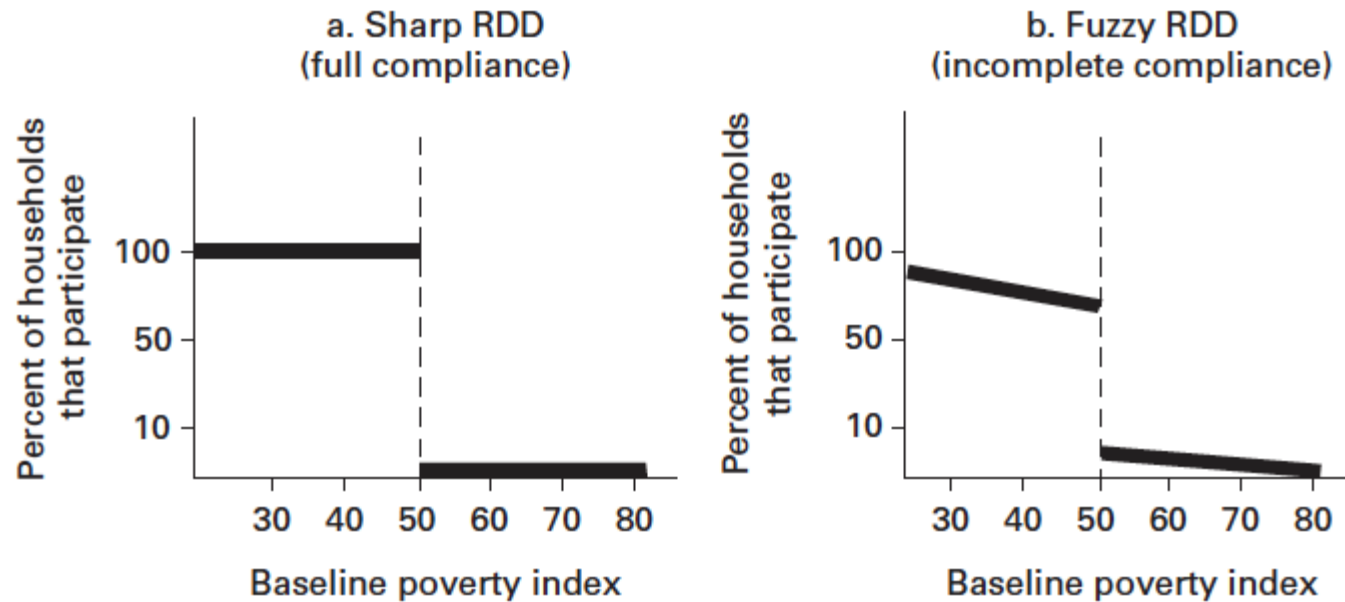


# Research Design

- Qualitative analysis of WCG implementation
- Descriptive analysis of WCG utilization
- Regression discontinuity design (RDD) aiming to estimate WCG effects around specific aid eligibility thresholds
- An interrupted time-series (ITS) analysis of changes in students' postsecondary outcomes trends after the introduction of WCG



# An RDD Example (From the World Bank)



Source: [https://dimewiki.worldbank.org/Regression\\_Discontinuity](https://dimewiki.worldbank.org/Regression_Discontinuity)



# WCG/CBS Grant Aid by % of Median Family Income

## Dollar Amount of WCG/CBS Grant Aid by %MFI Range For the 2020/21 Washington State Postsecondary Student Cohort

	0 to 55%	>55% to 60%	>60 to 65%	>65% to 70%	>70% to 75%	>75% to 100%	>100%
	MFI	MFI	MFI	MFI	MFI	MFI	MFI
<u>For CBS-Eligible Students At</u>							
University of Washington	11,540	11,540	11,540	5,520	2,705	1,104	0
Community and technical colleges	4,719	4,719	4,719	2,110	1,034	422	0
<u>For All Other Students At</u>							
University of Washington	11,040	7,728	6,624	5,520	2,705	1,104	0
Community and technical colleges	4,219	2,953	2,531	2,110	1,034	422	0

Note: From the 2020/21 Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship program manual.



# The Focus of the Impact Analysis

## Population

- First-time FAFSA applicants 2020-21 through 2022-23 AY.
- Students from families with income that are between ~50% and ~100% of the state's median adjusted family income.

## Outcomes

- Enrollment
- Units Earned
- Persistence/Retention



# Key Events

- Review of impact analysis plan by advisory panel (June 2024)
- Pre-registration of impact analysis (June/July 2024)
- Implementation study presented as a web-based infographic & issue focus (Q3 2024)
- Student outcomes brief (Q3 2024)
- Outcome study report (Q1-Q2 2026)



# Policy Insights

The information gleaned from this study will inform state decision making regarding:

- Adjustments to program eligibility rules
- Adjustments to award amounts by income level
- Communication strategies that improve student and family utilization of the WCG program





# Q & A

**THANK YOU**

