

Washington State Need Grant: *Changing Student Lives*

The Stated Need Grant program is the backbone of financial aid for Washingtonians at the state's public, four-year institutions

- ◆ The State Need Grant accounted for **90%** of all state aid provided to students at public baccalaureate institutions in Washington in 2016-17.
- ◆ \$163 million in State Need Grant funding to the public baccalaureate sector enabled **over 24,000 Washingtonians** to pursue a degree in 2016-17.
- ◆ Nearly **a fifth** of students in our sector received a State Need Grant in 2015-16.
- ◆ An early commitment of the State Need Grant, **49% of College Bound Scholarship recipients** attended one of our institutions in 2016-2017.

Profile of State Need Grant Recipients Public Baccalaureate Institutions 2016-17

- 100%** are Washington residents
- 91%** attend full-time, fall term
- 72%** are in the final two years of completing their degree
- 38%** are independent students
- 46%** are students of color
- 26%** are students 24 years or older
- 10%** are families with children

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

State Need Grant History

Established in 1969, the State Need Grant program has provided funding to low- and middle-income students for over 45 years, expanding access and affordability in higher education for Washington residents.

2016-17 Four-Year Public Sector State Need Grant Recipients

24,006
Recipients

7,918
Unserved

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

For eligible but unserved students, access and affordability are limited

- ◆ Despite the maintained funding, the program was **unable to serve more than 7,500 eligible students** due to insufficient funds in our sector in 2016-17.
- ◆ Eligible middle-income students are less likely to receive the grant at four-year institutions due to a lack of state funds.
- ◆ A reduction in the State Need Grant is associated with a reduction in completion rates for first-time students entering a public baccalaureate institution.

Institutions and the State are Partners in Providing Access and Affordability

Our institutions are partners with the state in providing access to an affordable quality higher education for Washingtonians. We use State Need Grant to leverage federal and institutional aid funds to provide sufficient awards so our students can complete their degree programs. **Over 90%** of State Need Grant recipients received a Pell Grant in 2016-17. Over **40%** received institutional scholarships and grants at the comprehensive institutions and The Evergreen State College. **Sixty percent** received institutional scholarships and grants at the research institutions. Coordinating the State Need Grant with other sources of aid, maximizes our state's ability to increase retention and completion at our four-year public institutions.

The Percentage of State Need Grant Recipients that Receive Other Aid

	Pell Grant	Institutional/Scholarships	Student Loans	Work Study
Research	93%	67%	52%	8%
Regional	93%	45%	70%	9%

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council

The State Need Grant Program is Key to Degree Attainment

Research consistently links improved earnings potential and life outcomes with increasing levels of attainment in higher education. The State Need Grant has been key in expanding access and affordability to Washingtonians and is critical to meeting the state's degree attainment goals.

According to the most recent state research, 87% of State Need Grant recipients in fall 2010 were retained for a second year at Washington's public comprehensive institutions and The Evergreen State College and ninety-two percent of students at research institutions.

Among State Need Grant recipients who earned degrees the average time to **completion** in the public baccalaureate sector was **4.5 years**. Forty-two percent of graduates who started at a public regional university and The Evergreen State College finished a degree within four years, and half of graduates who started at a research university completed in four years.



Nearly 90% of SNG recipients were retained for a 2nd year at Washington's public baccalaureates

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, *The Effectiveness of Washington's State Need Grant Program: Final Evaluation Report* January 2014

References:

Washington Student Achievement Council
Washington State Institute for Public Policy