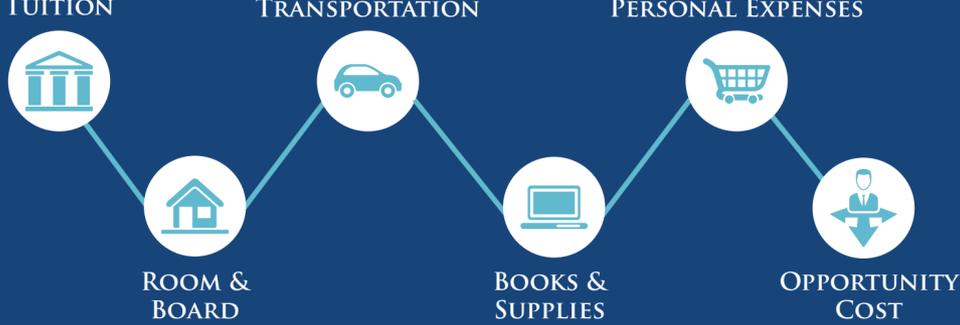


An affordable college education is critical to increasing educational attainment in Washington State.

But paying for college is complex, and the costs can be daunting.



And yet...



Students must find ways to pay for college.

STUDENT LOANS

During the great recession, annual debt doubled for students attending community colleges and increased by up to 61% for those in the public four-year system.*



WORK

A recent statewide survey revealed that nearly 2/3 of students are working while in college. Half of working students work more than 20 hours per week.

SAVINGS

According to a 2012 study by the U.S. GAO, families with 529 plans or Coverdells had median incomes of about \$142,400 per year.



FAMILY SUPPORT

Nearly 1/3 of students at community colleges and 2/3 of students at four-year colleges rely on parental support.*

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Over \$798 million in federal and state grants was provided to students, which amounted to 42% of students' total financial aid.*



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Public and private institutions provided \$313 million in funding to needy students, which amounted to 17% of students' total financial aid.* The state also provided \$1.2 billion in funding to public institutions to keep tuition low.

PHILANTHROPY

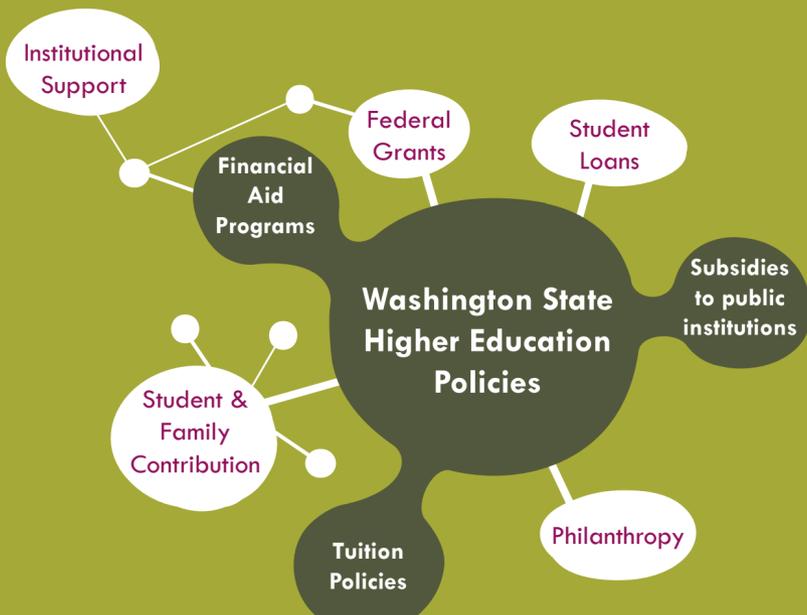
Businesses and private donors awarded nearly \$54 million in scholarships, which amounted to 3% of students' total aid.*



*Washington State 2013-14 Unit Record financial aid dataset for resident undergraduate need-based recipients.



State legislatures have key policy levers to make college affordable for all students.



How can the state use its tools to improve affordability?

A Washington State Affordability Framework will help us:



Understand how funding sources interact and impact affordability for students.



Define affordability goals.



Measure affordability.



Agree on limits for reasonable levels of student debt and work.



Adjust policy levers to make college affordable for all students.

Coordination is key.



Policymakers, administrators, and advocates need an Affordability Framework to understand the complexities of college affordability for Washington students.

