WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

STATE NEED GRANT

"I would not be able to receive a higher education if it were not for the State Need Grant.

Thanks to the financial support, I will get my pre-nursing finished and head toward my goal of forensic nursing."

Current SNG Recipient

Program overview

- The State Need Grant (SNG) program holds low-income students harmless from tuition increases with award amounts that keep pace with tuition.
- Nearly 74,000 low-income recipients received more than $303 million in SNG funds during the 2012-13 academic year.
- To be eligible, a student must come from a family whose income does not exceed 70 percent of the state's median family income (MFI), which currently is $58,500 for a family of four.
- The maximum award values for full-time enrollment in 2014-15 range from $1,412 to $10,868, depending on the type of institution attended. Award values are based on the tuition and fee rates at Washington's public colleges and universities. Award amounts are prorated by income category and part-time enrollment.
- Currently 68 institutions of higher education participate in the State Need Grant program.
- The Legislature has called for a comprehensive SNG study due in December 2014.

Program Background and Trends

For more than 40 years, the State Need Grant (SNG) program has been assisting needy and disadvantaged students by off-setting a portion of their higher education costs.

SNG recipients include traditional and non-traditional students, spanning all age groups.

Washington ranked first in the nation in the level of need-based financial aid per undergraduate enrollments for the 2011-12 academic year; however, the number of students eligible for SNG has increased dramatically, severely straining the capacity of the program to serve all eligible students.

"Since the elimination of the State Need Grant from my financial aid package, I may have to drop out of college after this quarter.

I originally wanted to get my four-year degree, but now I think I'll be lucky to afford earning a two-year degree."

Former SNG Recipient

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Benefits to Students

State Need Grants help the lowest-income undergraduates pursue degrees, sharpen skills, and retrain for new careers.

Students from Washington's lowest-income families are most affected by rising tuition costs and other barriers. They are more likely to enroll and less likely to drop out when financial aid offsets tuition increases.

Benefits to the State

The State Need Grant program helps students access higher education and attain degrees to become productive citizens.

These awards assist students in the pursuit of their higher education goals at eligible colleges, universities, and career schools statewide, positively impacting businesses and communities throughout the state.

Program Funding

- The Legislature has allowed the State Need Grant to keep pace with tuition and fees for the last nine biennia.
- The program is funded at $303 million in 2014-15.
- In 2012-13, over 32,000 students were eligible but unable to receive the grant due to lack of funds.
- Current funding allows full awards to students at or below 50 percent of Median Family Income (MFI). Those with incomes between 50 and 70 percent MFI receive a prorated award.
- State Need Grant is funded by the General Fund and the Opportunity Pathway Account, which receives a portion of Washington's Lottery proceeds.

For more information:

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Student and parent information about State Need Grant can be found at www.readysetgrad.org/sng.

"A reduction or elimination of the SNG would have a major impact on my life. I would not have the opportunity to graduate and pursue a career that pays enough to support my children.

As a single parent, going back to school is the best thing I can give my children so we can be a strong family."

Current SNG Recipient

WASHINGTON
OPPORTUNITY PATHWAYS

Washington's student financial aid programs are known collectively as Opportunity Pathways.

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers these programs, helping tens of thousands of students earn college certificates and degrees annually.