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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Room &amp; Board</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Books &amp; Supplies</th>
<th>Personal Expenses</th>
<th>Opportunity Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And yet...

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

State legislators 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:

- Policymakers
- Administrators
- Advocates

[Table showing funding sources and their impact on affordability]

Washington State Higher Education Policies

- Federal Grants
- Student Loans
- Institutional Support
- Student & Family Contribution
- Tuition Policies
- Financial Aid Programs
- Subsidies to public institutions

Example:

- Government Grants provided $1.2 billion in funding to public institutions, which amounted to 42% of students' total financial aid.
- Student & Family Contribution provided $1.2 billion in funding to public institutions to keep tuition low.
- Institutions provided $313 million in funding to needy students, which amounted to 17% of students' total financial aid.
- Businesses and private donors awarded nearly $54 million in scholarships, which amounted to 3% of students' total aid.
- Student Loans provided nearly $2 billion in funding to needy students, which amounted to 24% of students' total financial aid.
- Nearly 1/3 of students at community colleges and 2/3 of students at four-year colleges rely on parental support.
- Over $798 million in federal and state grants was provided to students, which amounted to 42% of students' total financial aid.

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

Rachelle Sharpe, Deputy Director
360-753-7872 | rachelles@wsac.wa.gov
Marc Webster, Sr. Fiscal Policy Advisor
360-753-7862 | marcw@wsac.wa.gov

**Data notes:**
- All numbers in this document are from the 2013-14 Unit Record financial aid dataset for resident undergraduate need-based recipients.
- All percentages are calculated based on the total number of students receiving financial aid.
- All funding amounts are in millions of dollars.

**Definitions:**
- **Funding Sources:** Includes federal, state, institutional, philanthropic, and student & family contributions.
- **Affordability Goals:** Includes definitions of what affordability means for students.
- **Policy Levers:** Includes key policy areas and levers that can be adjusted to improve affordability.