

Make college affordable.

State Need Grant funding reduces student debt and raises postsecondary graduation rates.

FY 2017

\$19 million to support 4,500 more students.

Build on the unprecedented tuition reductions of 2015, and take a first step toward funding equitable educational opportunities for low-income students.

Over 27,000—more than one in four—eligible students did not receive a grant in 2015 due to lack of funding. To provide equitable education opportunities for these students and families, the state must fund its stated policy. By increasing funding for the State Need Grant program, Washington can serve an additional 4,500 low-income students.

Research shows that students who receive grants are more likely to earn a credential than otherwise-similar students.

Grant aid allows students to focus on their studies, rather than attending only one or two courses and working too many hours. The grant supports students to choose the postsecondary program that best suits their interests, increasing their chance of successful completion.

The State Need Grant can lower student debt levels and increase graduation rates. Students without the grant often attend part-time, which is negatively correlated with success. Increased funding for the program will help more qualified students attain a certificate or degree.

Receipt of the State Need Grant is associated with higher retention and completion rates for students with the lowest family incomes. Eligible students who don't receive a grant are faced with difficult choices. They increase borrowing, work more hours, enroll in fewer classes, take additional jobs, and make significant changes to their living situation that are less conducive to academic success.

State Need Grant is key to making college affordable for low-income students.

When the state fully funds the State Need Grant, students and families will have equitable education opportunities. Eligible students will have more clarity about college costs, see their costs reduced, and will be more likely to persist and graduate. Access to postsecondary education will expand, as State Need Grant aid allows students to enroll in a wide array of programs.

To meet the state's educational attainment goals, the state must remove cost barriers where possible. State Need Grant also serves as an important funding source for the College Bound Scholarship. Following the unprecedented tuition reductions of 2015, we must maintain the momentum to improve affordability for all students.



Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations
360-753-7635 | maddyt@wsac.wa.gov