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State Need Grant

OVERVIEW

- The State Need Grant (SNG) program holds low-income students harmless from tuition fluctuations with award amounts that keep pace with tuition.
- More than 68,000 low-income recipients received about \$299 million in SNG funds during the 2017-18 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 \$61,500 for a family of four.
- The maximum award values for full-time enrollment in 2018-19 range from \$2,823 to \$9,745, 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.
- About 65 institutions of higher education participate in the State Need Grant program.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND & TRENDS

For 50 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.

SNG is critical to ensuring more working-age adults return to school and complete their program of study. The breadth and scope of SNG make it vital to adult reengagement; students can use funds for both certificate and degree programs, and they have the flexibility to attend part-time. Meeting the state's attainment goals will require reaching students beyond traditional, recent high school graduates.



“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.”

“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.”

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 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 \$324 million in 2018-19.
- 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.

In 2017-18

**over 22,000
eligible students**

did not receive State
Need Grant due to
lack of funds.

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.

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



WASHINGTON
OPPORTUNITY PATHWAYS