Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Alabama Profile

Why State Grants Matter
State grant programs have the potential to make college possible for many students who could not otherwise afford to enroll. Grant policies vary widely across states in terms of their funding levels, whether they are based on financial or academic criteria or a combination of the two, and which students and institutions are eligible.

Colleges in Alabama – Grants, Funding and Tuition
$7,615,654 in student aid funds disbursed by 3 state grant programs.

Alabama Residents
22% of Alabama residents have a B.A. degree
88% of Alabama students attend an in-state college

$40,976 Median household income in Alabama (2010)

Largest Two Grant Programs in Alabama
(See Appendix B of the full report for a complete listing of grant programs)

Alabama Student Assistance Program
Funds disbursed: $5,204,129
% of all state grants: 68%
Number of recipients: 7,457
Avg. aid per recipient: $698
Eligibility criteria: Financial, Academic

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 77%
PRIVATE 18%
FOR-PROFIT 4%

AL Student Grant Program
Funds disbursed: $2,299,025
% of all state grants: 30%
Number of recipients: 7,217
Avg. aid per recipient: $319
Eligibility criteria: Academic

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 0%
PRIVATE 100%
FOR-PROFIT 0%