Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

California 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 California – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$1,040,518,000

in student aid funds disbursed by

3

state grant programs.

California Residents

29%
of California residents have a B.A. degree

93%
of California students attend an in-state college

$54,459

Median household income in California (2010)

Tuition and fees, four-year public colleges, 2009–2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>U.S. AVG.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$6,550</td>
<td>$7,050</td>
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Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009–2010

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<thead>
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<th>CA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$609</td>
<td>$627</td>
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% funding of publics from state/local gov, 2008-2009

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<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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% grant aid based on need, 2009-2010

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<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>73%</td>
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Largest Two Grant Programs in California

(See Appendix B of the full report for a complete listing of grant programs)

Cal Grant B

Funds disbursed: $596,194,000

% of all state grants: 57%

Number of recipients: 149,255

Avg. aid per recipient: $3,994

% of dollars disbursed by sector:

PUBLIC 83%

PRIVATE 8%

Eligibility criteria:

Financial, Academic

Cal Grant A

Funds disbursed: $434,368,000

% of all state grants: 42%

Number of recipients: 60,800

Avg. aid per recipient: $7,144

% of dollars disbursed by sector:

PUBLIC 62%

PRIVATE 31%

Eligibility criteria:

Financial, Academic