Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Florida 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 Florida – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$657,706,334 in student aid funds disbursed by 12 state grant programs.

% funding of publics from state/local gov, 2008-2009
37% FL
29% U.S. AVG.

Florida Residents

26% of Florida residents have a B.A. degree
87% of Florida students attend an in-state college

$44,243 Median household income in Florida (2010)

Largest Two Grant Programs in Florida

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

FL Bright Futures Scholarship Program-FMS Awards

Funds disbursed: $294,601,476
% of all state grants: 45%
Number of recipients: 137,189
Avg. aid per recipient: $2,147
Eligibility criteria: Academic

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 89%
PRIVATE 10%
FOR-PROFIT 1%

FL Bright Futures Scholarship Program-FAS Awards

Funds disbursed: $124,710,818
% of all state grants: 19%
Number of recipients: 37,963
Avg. aid per recipient: $3,285
Eligibility criteria: Academic

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 89%
PRIVATE 11%
FOR-PROFIT 0%