Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Kentucky 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 Kentucky – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$189,742,173 in student aid funds disbursed by 4 state grant programs.

Kentucky Residents

20% of Kentucky residents have a B.A. degree
86% of Kentucky students attend an in-state college

$41,236 Median household income in Kentucky (2010)

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

$7,116 $7,050
KY U.S. AVG.

Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009-2010

$1,029 $627
KY U.S. AVG.

% funding of publics from state/local gov, 2008-2009

23% 29% KY U.S. AVG.

% grant aid based on need, 2009-2010

49% 73% KY U.S. AVG.

Largest Two Grant Programs in Kentucky

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

Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship

Funds disbursed: $93,764,507
% of all state grants: 49%
Avg. aid per recipient: $1,381
Eligibility criteria: Academic

Number of recipients: 67,892
% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 81%
PRIVATE 17%
FOR-PROFIT 2%

College Access Program (CAP) Grant

Funds disbursed: $63,334,714
% of all state grants: 33%
Avg. aid per recipient: $1,570
Eligibility criteria: Financial

Number of recipients: 40,333
% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 73%
PRIVATE 17%
FOR-PROFIT 9%