Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Massachusetts 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.

Massachusetts Residents

38% of Massachusetts residents have a B.A. degree

70% of Massachusetts students attend an in-state college

$61,333 Median household income in Massachusetts (2010)

Colleges in Massachusetts – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$110,140,238 in student aid funds disbursed by 7 state grant programs.

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

- MA: $9,239
- U.S. AVG.: $7,050

Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009–2010

- MA: $273
- U.S. AVG.: $627

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

- MA: 29%
- U.S. AVG.: 29%

% grant aid based on need, 2009–2010

- MA: 94%
- U.S. AVG.: 73%

Largest Two Grant Programs in Massachusetts

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

**MASSGrant**

- Funds disbursed: $33,848,047
- % of all state grants: 31%
- Eligibility criteria: Financial

- Number of recipients: 43,988
- Avg. aid per recipient: $769

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**Massachusetts Access Grant**

- Funds disbursed: $26,391,254
- % of all state grants: 24%
- Eligibility criteria: Financial

- Number of recipients: 28,198
- Avg. aid per recipient: $936

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