Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Mississippi 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 Mississippi – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$21,607,626
in student aid funds disbursed by
5
state grant programs.

Mississippi Residents

19%
of Mississippi residents have a B.A. degree
88%
of Mississippi students attend an in-state college
$37,985
Median household income in Mississippi (2010)

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

Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009-2010

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

% grant aid based on need, 2009-2010

Largest Two Grant Programs in Mississippi

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

Mississippi Resident Tuition Grant

Funds disbursed: $13,950,739
% of all state grants: 65%

Number of recipients: 23,227
Avg. aid per recipient: $601

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

Eligibility criteria: Academic

Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant

Funds disbursed: $4,712,408
% of all state grants: 22%

Number of recipients: 1,990
Avg. aid per recipient: $2,368

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 83%
PRIVATE 17%
FOR-PROFIT 0%

Eligibility criteria: Academic