Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Montana 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 Montana – Grants, Funding and Tuition
$5,648,479 in student aid funds disbursed by 6 state grant programs.

Montana Residents
27% of Montana residents have a B.A. degree
76% of Montana students attend an in-state college
$41,467 Median household income in Montana (2010)

Tuition and fees, four-year public colleges, 2009-2010
- MT: $5,485
- U.S. AVG: $7,050

Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009-2010
- MT: $142
- U.S. AVG: $627

% funding of publics from state/local gov, 2008-2009
- MT: 22%
- U.S. AVG: 29%

% grant aid based on need, 2009-2010
- MT: 76%
- U.S. AVG: 73%

Largest Two Grant Programs in Montana
(See Appendix B of the full report for a complete listing of grant programs)

Montana Tuition Assistance Program
- Funds disbursed: $2,152,815
- % of all state grants: 38%
- Avg. aid per recipient: $840
- Eligibility criteria: Financial

Governor's PSE Scholarship - Need
- Funds disbursed: $1,055,000
- % of all state grants: 19%
- Avg. aid per recipient: $971
- Eligibility criteria: Financial