Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Pennsylvania 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.

Pennsylvania Residents

26% of Pennsylvania residents have a B.A. degree
83% of Pennsylvania students attend an in-state college

$48,460 Median household income in Pennsylvania (2010)

Colleges in Pennsylvania – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$415,186,483 in student aid funds disbursed by
2 state grant programs.

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

$10,764 $7,050
PA U.S. AVG.

Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009–2010

$742 $627
PA U.S. AVG.

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

29%

Pennsylvania Residents

PA U.S. AVG.

% of grant aid based on need, 2009–2010

100% 73%

Largest Two Grant Programs in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State Grant Program

Funds disbursed: $413,349,249
% of all state grants: 100%

Number of recipients: 171,702
Avg. aid per recipient: $2,407

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 53%
PRIVATE 34%
FOR-PROFIT 13%

Eligibility criteria: Financial

Partnership for Access to Higher Education (PATH)

Funds disbursed: $1,837,234
% of all state grants: 0%

Number of recipients: 1,534
Avg. aid per recipient: $1,198

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 52%
PRIVATE 46%
FOR-PROFIT 2%

Eligibility criteria: Financial

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