South Carolina 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 South Carolina – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$319,995,152
in student aid funds disbursed by

7
state grant programs.

% funding of publics from state/local gov, 2008-2009
21% SC
29% U.S. AVG.

South Carolina Residents

23% of South Carolina residents have a B.A. degree
87% of South Carolina students attend an in-state college

$41,709
Median household income in South Carolina (2010)

Tuition and fees, four-year public colleges, 2009-2010
Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009-2010
% grant aid based on need, 2009-2010

$9,520 SC
$7,050 U.S. AVG.

$1,780 SC
$627 U.S. AVG.

73% SC
19% U.S. AVG.

Largest Two Grant Programs in South Carolina

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

LIFE Scholarship
Funds disbursed: $160,977,991
% of all state grants: 50%

Number of recipients: 33,271
Avg. aid per recipient: $4,838

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 82%
PRIVATE 18%
FOR-PROFIT 0%

Eligibility criteria: Academic

Lottery Tuition Assistance
Funds disbursed: $47,000,000
% of all state grants: 15%

Number of recipients: 45,628
Avg. aid per recipient: $1,030

% of dollars disbursed by sector:
PUBLIC 99%
PRIVATE 1%
FOR-PROFIT 0%

Eligibility criteria: N/A