Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

West Virginia 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 West Virginia – Grants, Funding and Tuition

$112,697,202

in student aid funds disbursed by

4

state grant programs.

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

28% 29%

WV U.S. AVG.

West Virginia Residents

17%

of West Virginia residents have a B.A. degree

85%

of West Virginia students attend an in-state college

$42,839

Median household income in West Virginia (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

$4,980 $7,050

$1,076 $627

44% 73%

WV U.S. AVG. WV U.S. AVG. WV U.S. AVG.

Largest Two Grant Programs in West Virginia

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

PROMISE Scholarship

- Funds disbursed: $45,599,720
- % of all state grants: 40%
- Number of recipients: 9,224
- Avg. aid per recipient: $4,944
- % of dollars disbursed by sector:
  - PUBLIC: 90%
  - PRIVATE: 10%
  - FOR-PROFIT: 0%
- Eligibility criteria: Academic

West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program

- Funds disbursed: $40,082,411
- % of all state grants: 36%
- Number of recipients: 14,997
- Avg. aid per recipient: $2,673
- % of dollars disbursed by sector:
  - PUBLIC: 84%
  - PRIVATE: 12%
  - FOR-PROFIT: 5%
- Eligibility criteria: Financial, Academic