Beyond Need and Merit: Strengthening State Grant Programs

Wisconsin 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.

Wisconsin Residents
26% of Wisconsin residents have a B.A. degree
82% of Wisconsin students attend an in-state college
$50,522 Median household income in Wisconsin (2010)

Colleges in Wisconsin – Grants, Funding and Tuition
$105,904,976 in student aid funds disbursed by 7 state grant programs.

Wisconsin Higher Education Grant - UW
Funds disbursed: $54,977,370
% of all state grants: 52%
Avg. aid per recipient: $2,163
Eligibility criteria: Financial

Wisconsin Tuition Grant
Funds disbursed: $25,909,981
% of all state grants: 24%
Avg. aid per recipient: $2,516
Eligibility criteria: Financial

Tuition and fees, four-year public colleges, 2009-2010
WI $7,169 U.S. AVG. $7,050

Avg. state grant aid per student, 2009-2010
WI $415 U.S. AVG. $627

% of grant aid based on need, 2009-2010
WI 97% U.S. AVG. 73%

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