



# Aligning State Resources for Student Success: UNDERSTANDING AFFORDABILITY IN WASHINGTON

WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee

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WASHINGTON STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS



# Aligning Resources for Student Success

Affordable Pathways to Raise Levels of Attainment

Improve Understanding: An Affordability Framework

A Range of Approaches: Nationally & Washington



# WSAC's Primary Duties

## Policy & Research

- Attainment goals
- System & workforce needs
- Academic efficiency policies
- Recommendations for student success

## Affordability

- Savings: Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) & Dream Ahead
- Financial aid administration
- Workforce shortage programs

## Access & Support

- College Bound Scholarship
- Ready, Set, Grad
- GEAR UP
- 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign
- The Washboard.org
- Adult Reengagement

## Consumer Protection

- Degree authorization
- Veteran's benefits
- Complaint resolution
- Program compliance
- Student Loan Advocate



# Attainment Levels Needed for an Educated Workforce

## THE ROADMAP

A Plan to Increase Educational Attainment in Washington



**100%**

High school diploma  
or equivalent



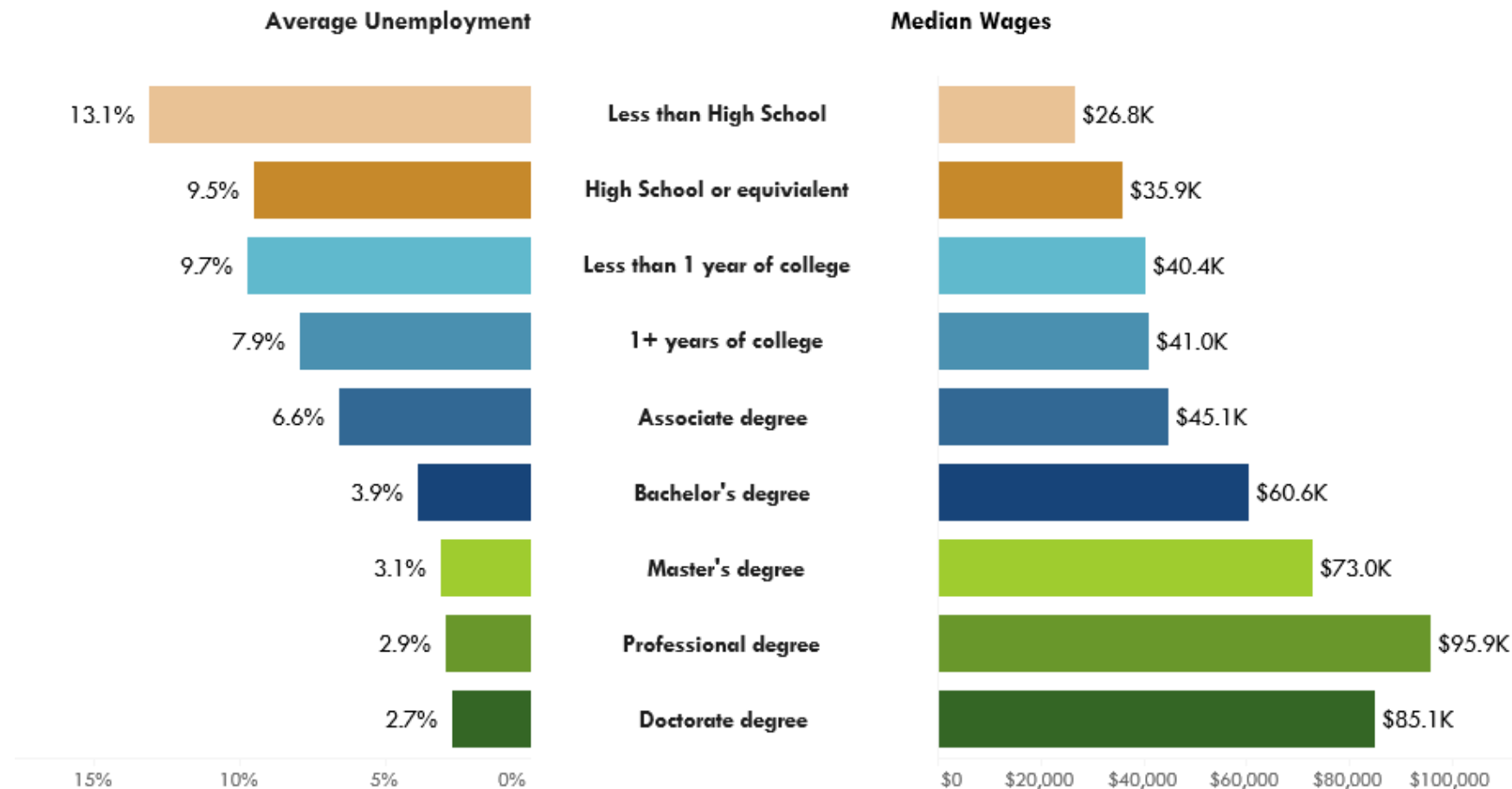
**70%**

Postsecondary  
credential



# Bold Strategies Needed

- Employers need a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive.

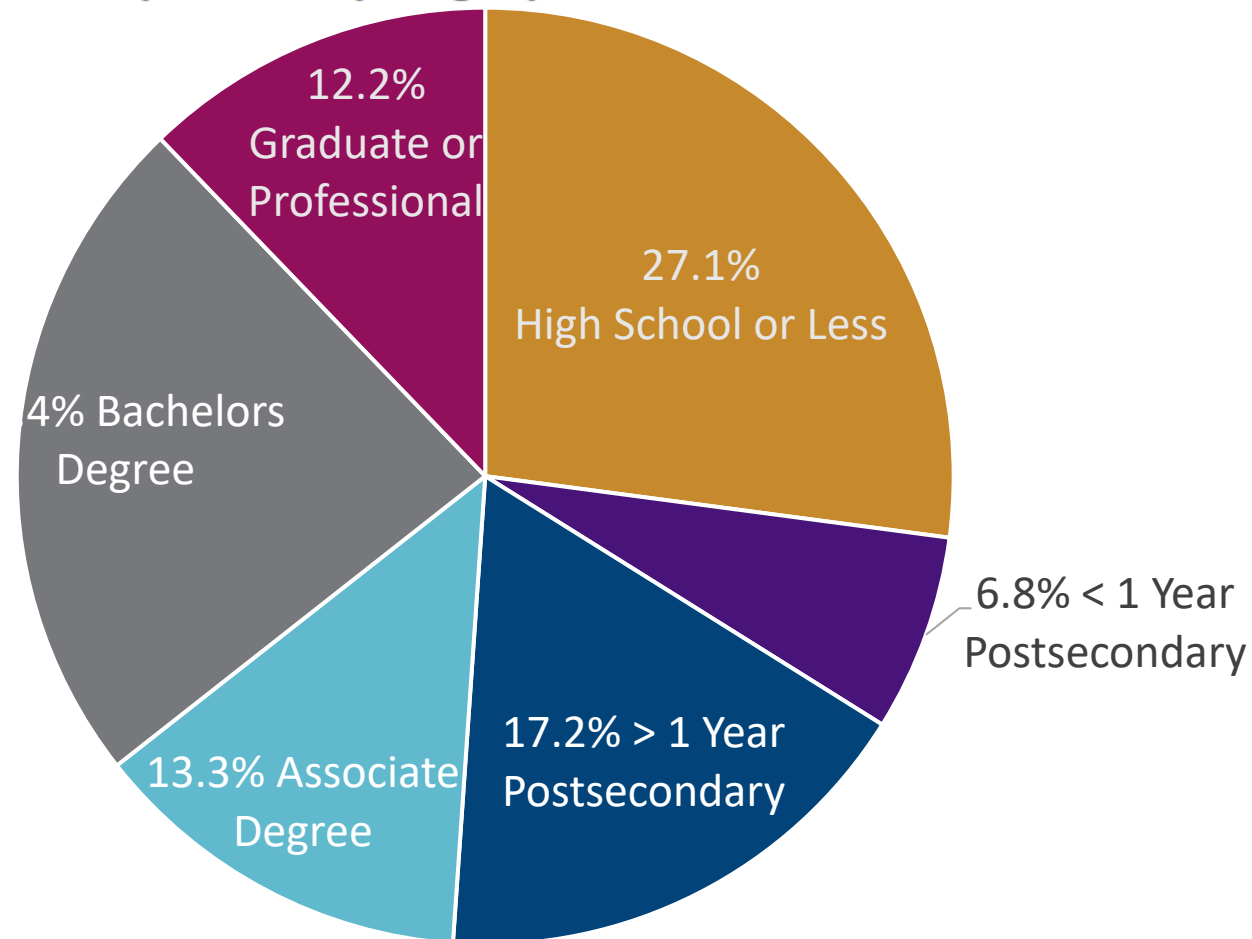




# Bold Strategies Needed

- Employers need a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive.
- Our residents are not earning the needed credentials – and there are gaps at every educational level.

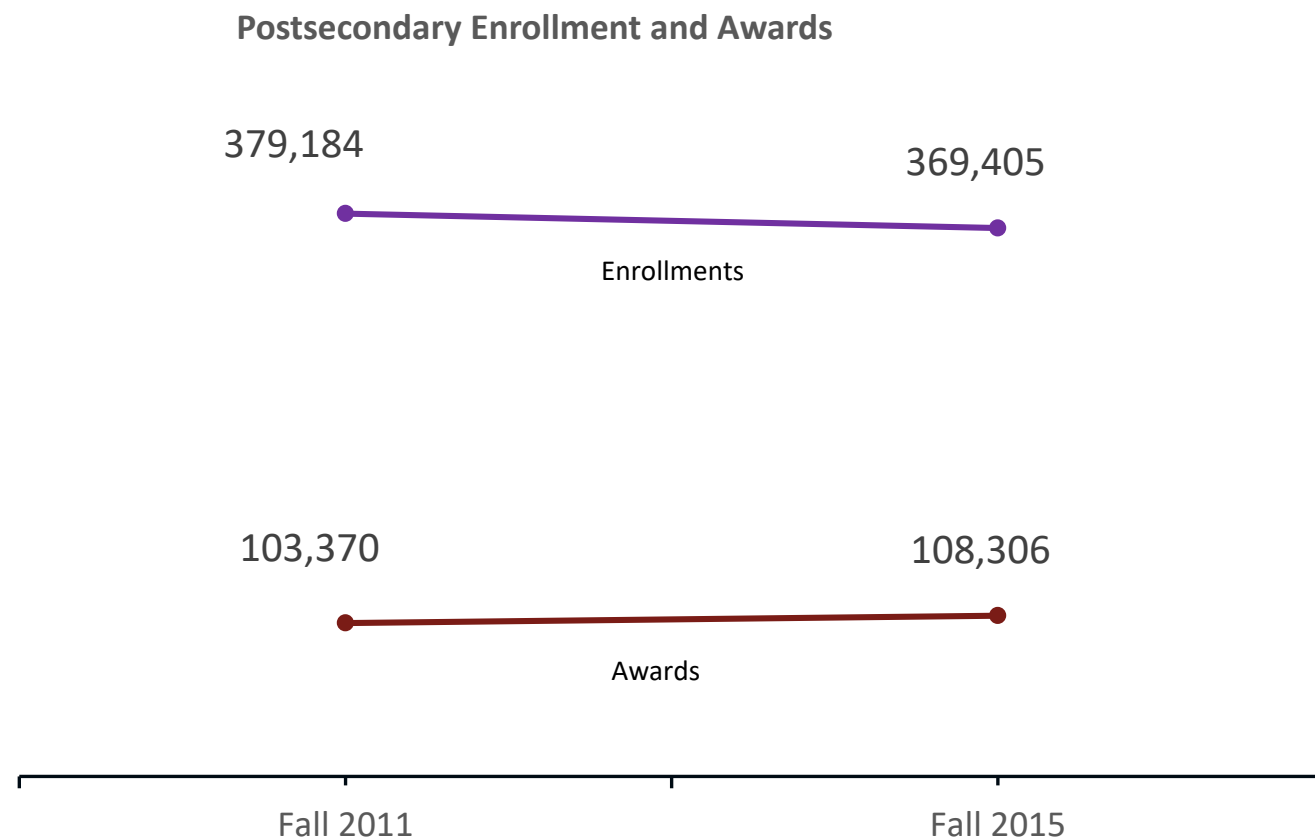
**Total Projected Job Openings by Education Level, 2020-2025**





# Bold Strategies Needed

- Employers need a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive.
- Our residents are not earning the needed credentials – and there are gaps at every educational level.
- Employers find talent elsewhere and our residents are not competitive for living-wage jobs.



Source: WSAC Roadmap Dashboard. IPEDS Fall Enrollment data from the U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Completions, survey A data from the U.S. Department of Education



# Key Challenge Areas Impeding Progress

## Close Opportunity Gaps

- Remove system barriers for underserved students
- Provide support for underrepresented students

## Support Regional Leaders

- Address regional workforce shortages
- Engage and support communities

## Reconnect Adult Learners

- Recruit and support adult learners
- Target former students with credits

## Provide Affordable High Quality Pathways

- **Provide multiple high quality pathways**
- **Address financing and affordability gaps**





# Affordability Framework

Using data to improve  
understanding of higher  
education affordability in  
Washington.



## A Perennial Issue

If the University of Washington is to be what it was intended to be, a state institution where the poor can get higher education as well as those who can afford to go to private colleges, then this countless number of fees. . . Must positively be reduced.

*Tacoma Times, 1915*

It is the responsibility of the community, at the local, State and National levels, to guarantee that financial barriers do not prevent any able and otherwise qualified. . . person from receiving the opportunity for higher education.

*President's Commission on Higher Education, 1947*

### **FEE SYSTEM AT UNIVERSITY DISGRACE**

Ten dollars tuition fee a semester, \$5 entrance fee, \$10 matriculation fee (for freshmen), \$10 chemistry laboratory fee, \$2 or \$3 engineering laboratory fee, \$15.50 for a cadet uniform (compulsory for freshmen and sophomores), \$5 student registration fee—these and class fees to face, are the formidable array facing students, particularly freshmen, entering the University of Washington this year.

Figure it up for yourself. Here's an expense of over \$60 before a freshman can enter the university. Upper classmen escape the \$10 matriculation fee. They also can get along with last year's cadet suit. So they can get off with something over \$40.

**AND THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF BOOKS.**

In other words, it's an exceptional case that ANY student at the state university can get off with less than \$50 in various entrance fees.

The \$20 annual tuition fee imposed by the last legislature was too much of a wall for a lot of would-be students to surmount, but the \$10 matriculation fee, imposed on all freshmen this year for the first time, takes the cake.

The matriculation as well as the tuition fee became law at the hands of the notorious last legislature.

There is another feature that should be mentioned. If, for some reason, a student fails to register the first two days, HE IS SOAKED \$1 EXTRA.

If the University of Washington is to be what it was intended to be, a state institution where the poor can get higher education as well as those who can afford to go to private colleges, then this countless number of fees and their amounts must positively be reduced.

As matters stand now, **THE FEE SYSTEM AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY IS A SHAME AND A DISGRACE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE STATE, WHO OWN THE INSTITUTION.**

*Tacoma Times, 1915*



# What is affordability?



State legislatures have key policy levers to make college affordable for all students.

## STUDENT LOANS

During the great recession, annual debt doubled for students attending community colleges and increased by up to 61% for those in the public four-year system.\*



## WORK

A recent statewide survey revealed that nearly 2/3 of students are working while in college. Half of working students work more than 20 hours per week.

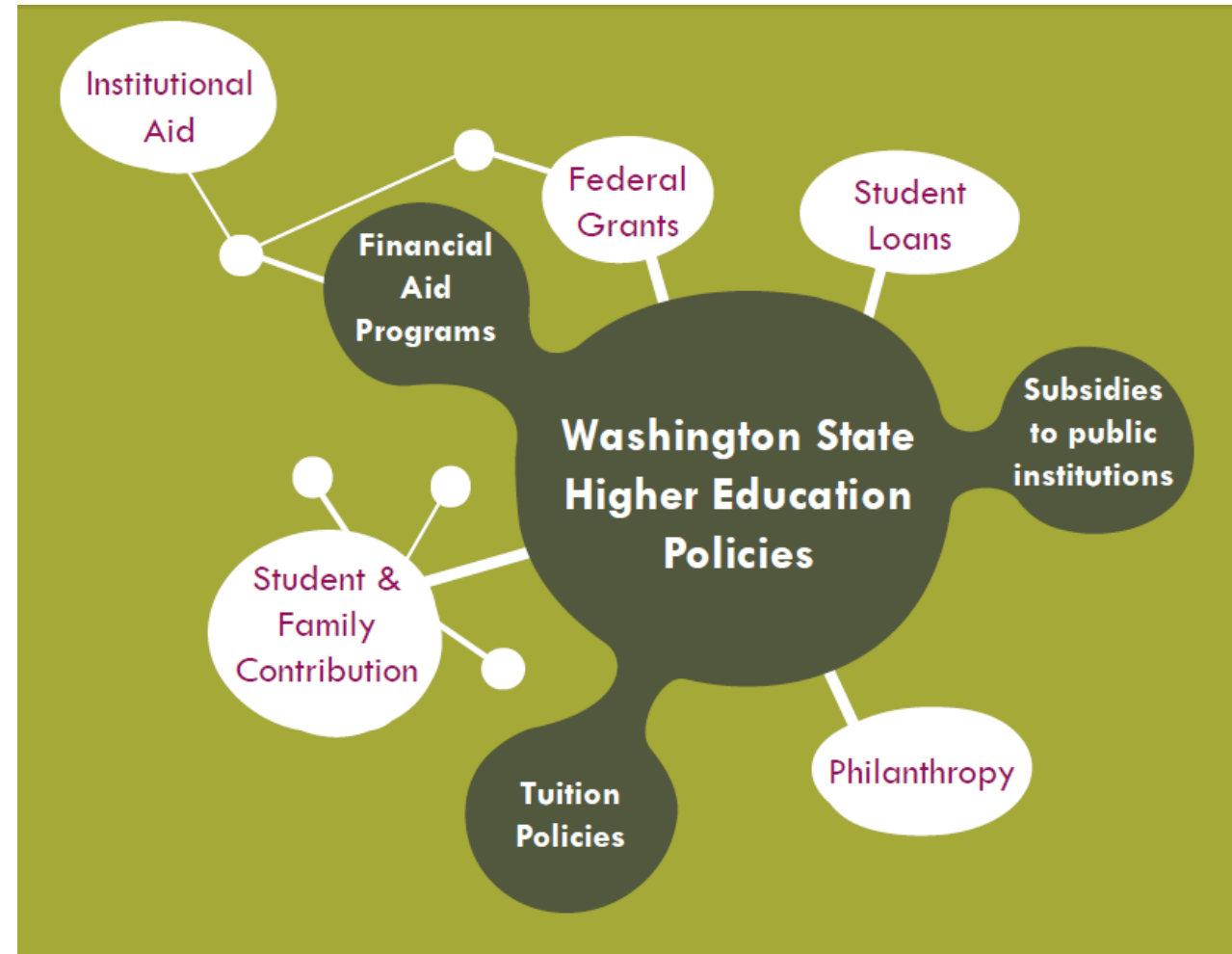
## SAVINGS

According to a 2012 study by the U.S. GAO, families with 529 plans or Coverdells had median incomes of about \$142,400 per year.



## FAMILY SUPPORT

Nearly 1/3 of students at community colleges and 2/3 of students at four-year colleges rely on parental support.\*





# Measuring Affordability

Paying for postsecondary education has three major components.

## Costs

Include tuition and fees, books, room and board, etc.

## Aid

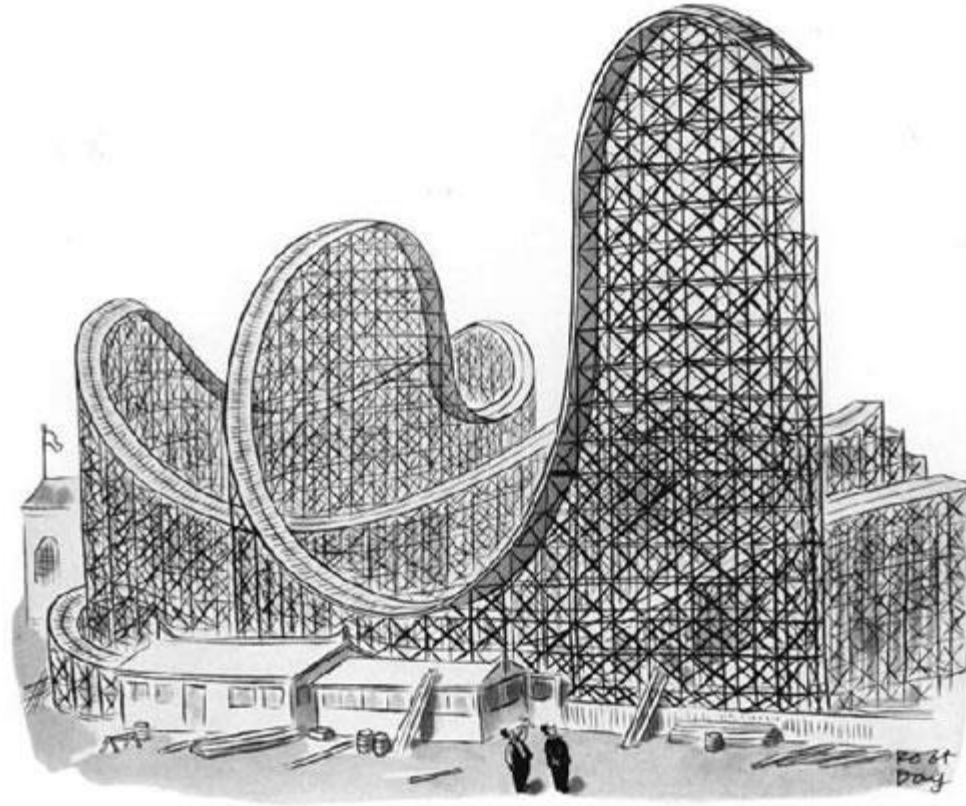
The system by which some costs are reduced or waived, lowering total cost for recipients.

## Student Options

Students then have to decide how to pay for their net costs, the cost remaining after any aid is applied. They can work, borrow, attend part-time, choose different institutions, etc.



# Intentional State-Level Policy



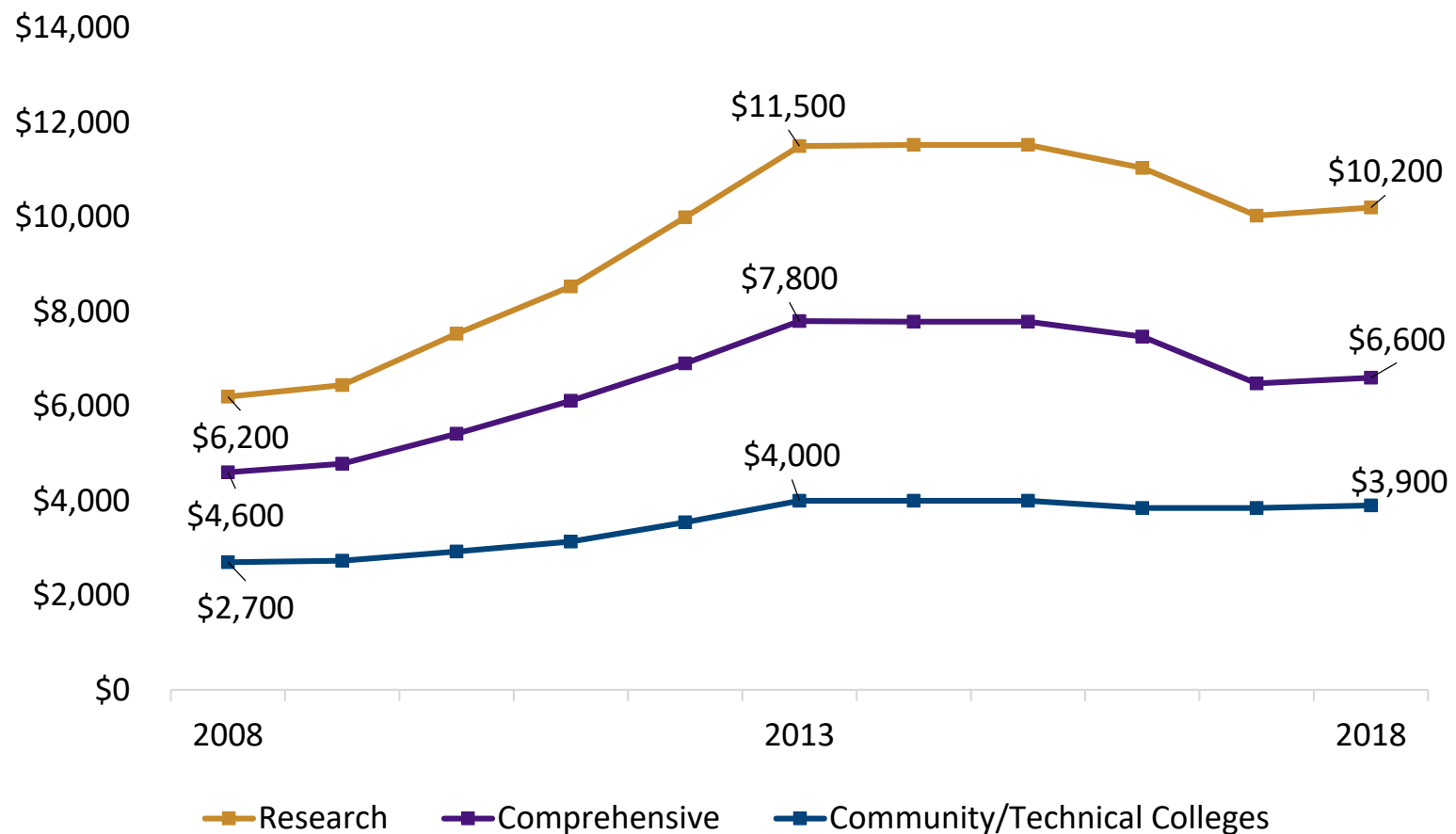
**TUITION POLICY. THE RIDE.**



# Volatility in tuition rates impacts affordability.

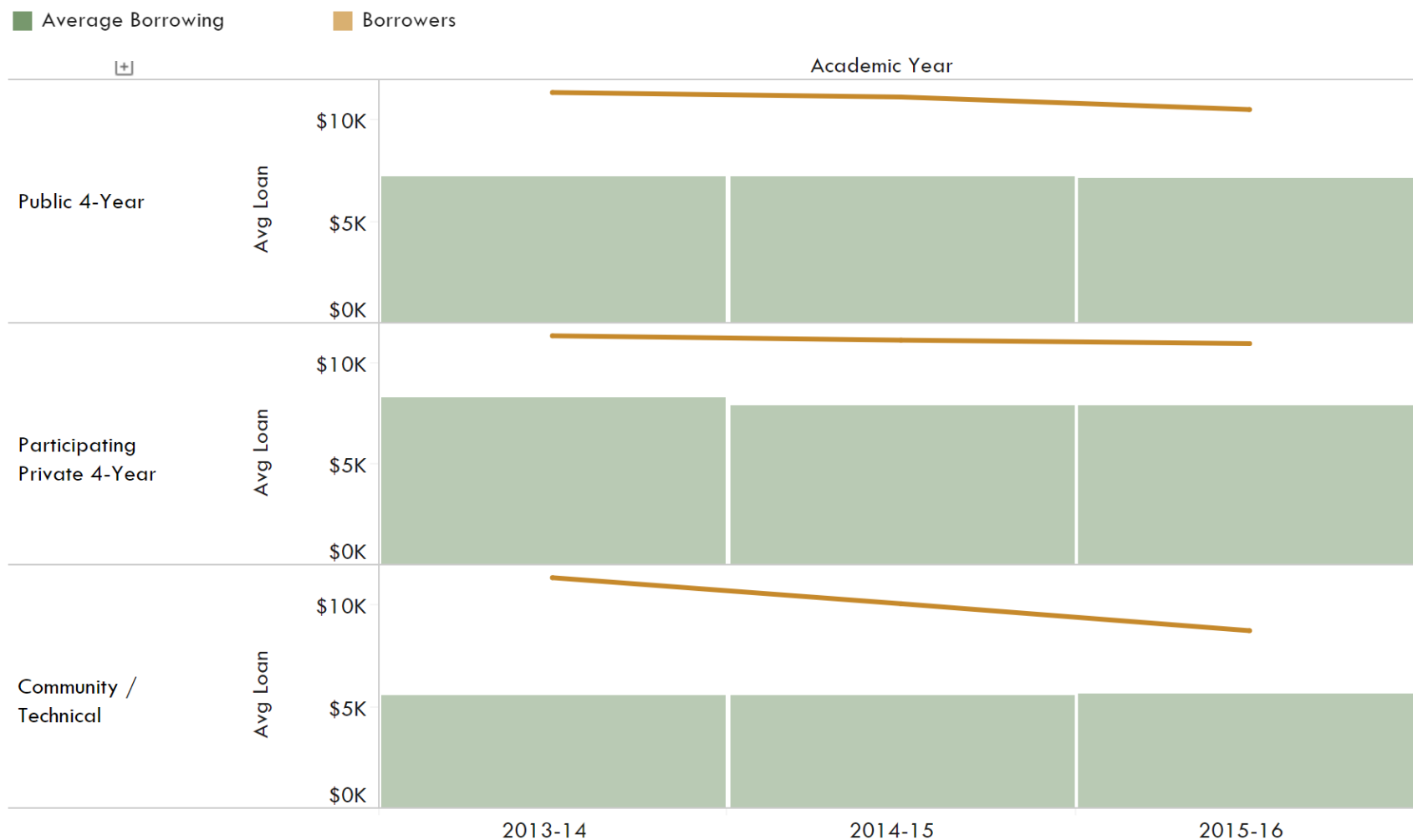
Following steep increases during the recession, tuition held steady and then decreased.

### WA Resident Undergraduate Public Tuition Rates





# Borrowing increases have stabilized.



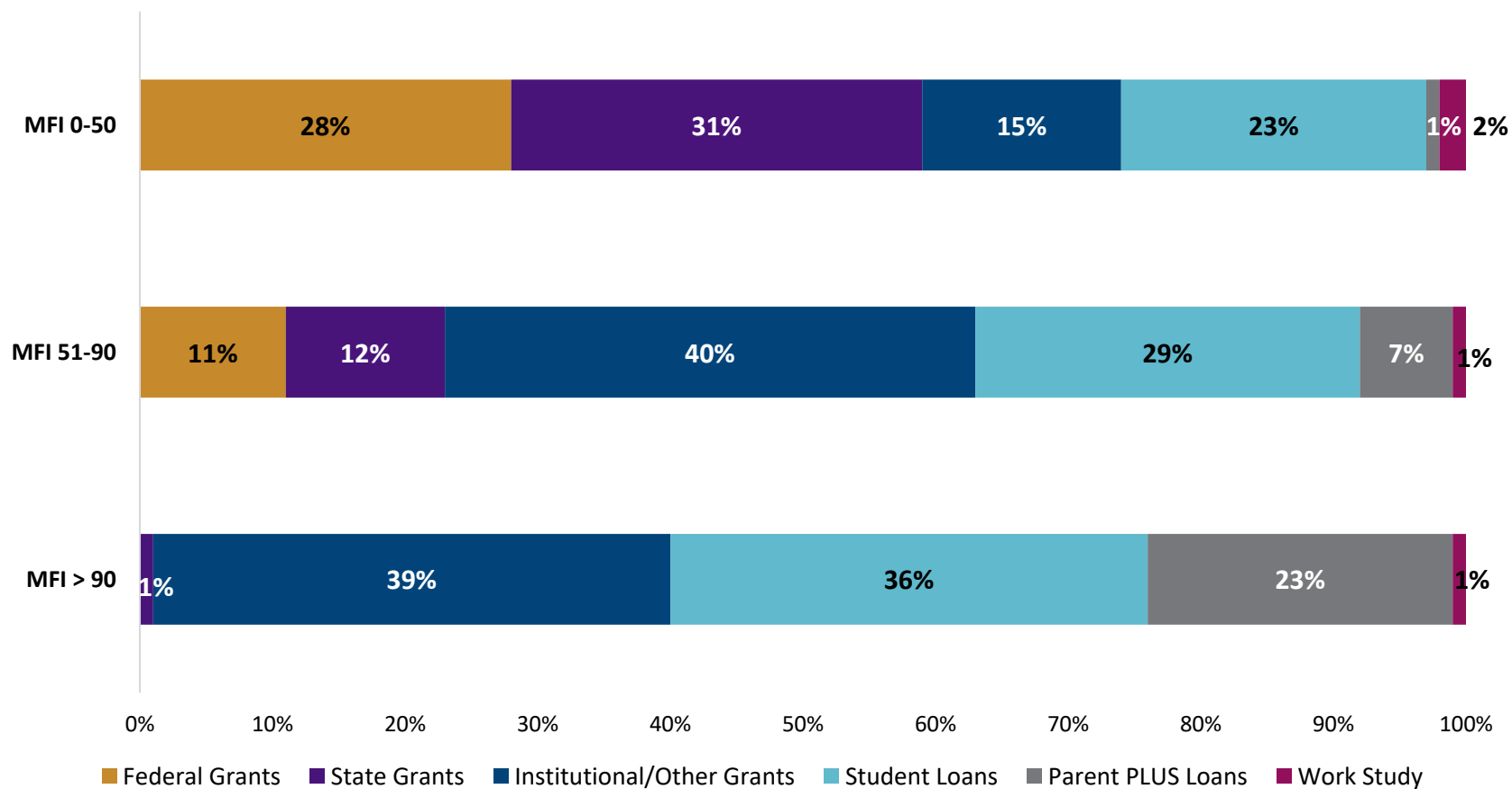
Average debt for 2017 Bachelor's degree recipients: **\$23,900.**

- 52% of graduates have debt.

Source: Project on Student Debt. Institute for College Access & Success ([www.ticas.org](http://www.ticas.org))



# Financial aid packages vary by income.



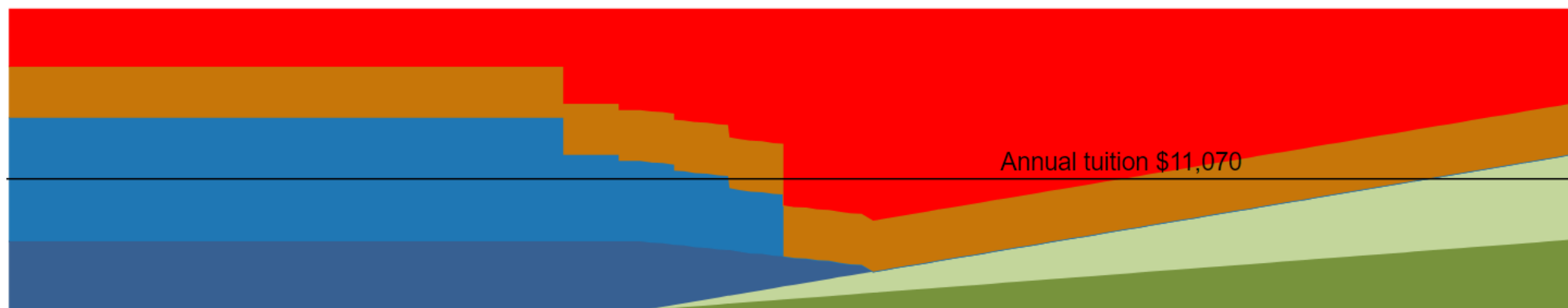
- Low-income students have financial gaps.
- Institutional aid supports middle income.
- Students are borrowing at all income levels.





# Affordability Interactive Model to explore assumptions.

- Explore assumptions
- Evaluate proposals
- Examine existing policies
- Compare students and sectors



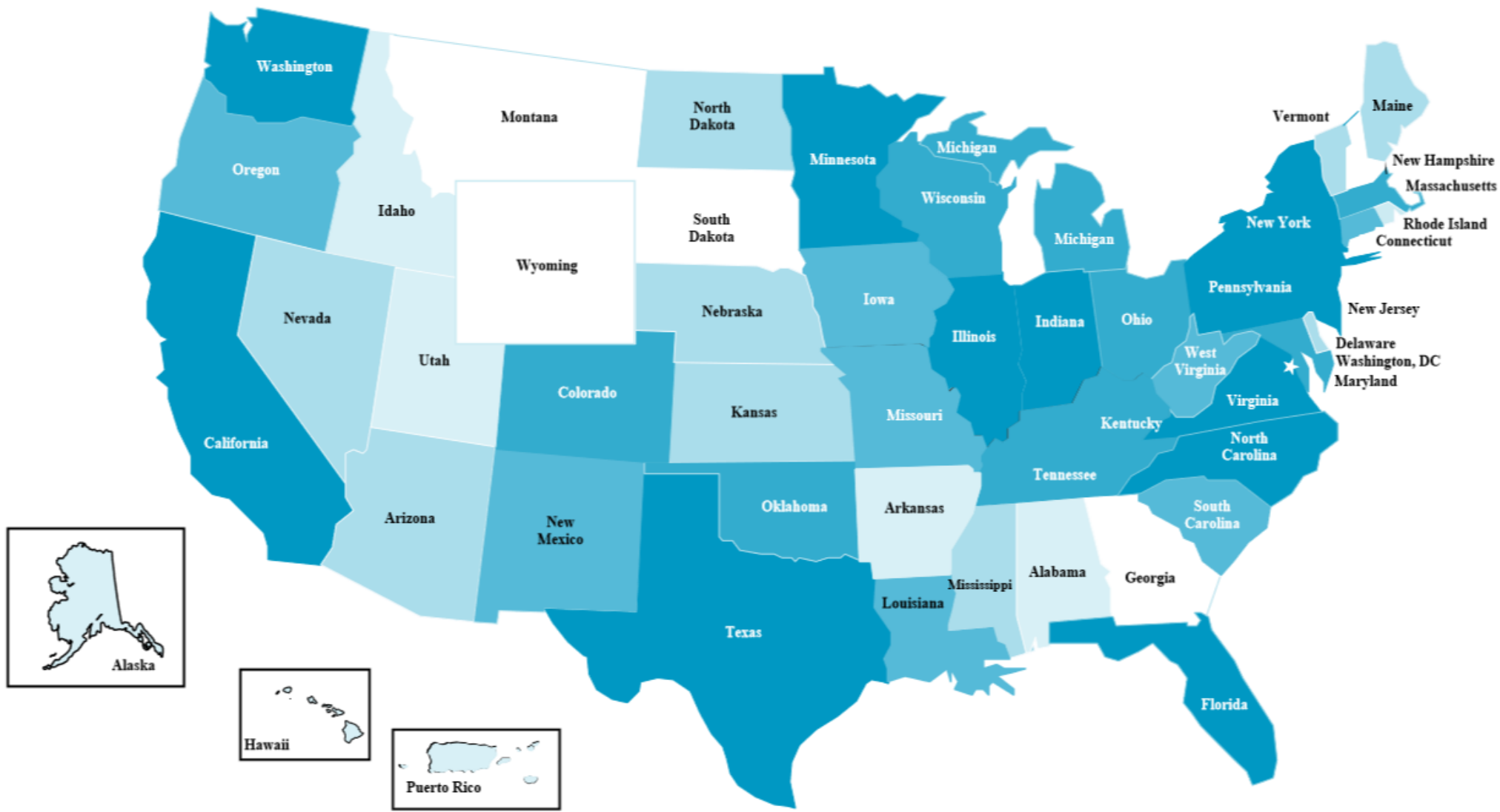
<https://college-affordability.css.uwb.edu/>

- Pell Grant
- State Need Grant
- Student Work
- College Savings
- Family
- Presumed Debt

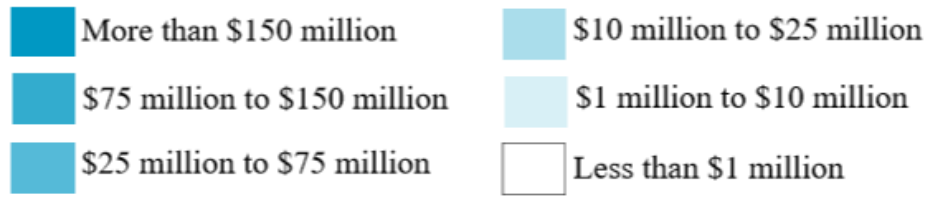


## State Student Financial Aid

Washington provides need-based aid to ensure low-income students have an equal opportunity to participate in higher education.



NASSGAP  
National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs





# State Aid Nationally – A Critical Component

**\$12.5 Billion** in state funded student aid in 2015-16



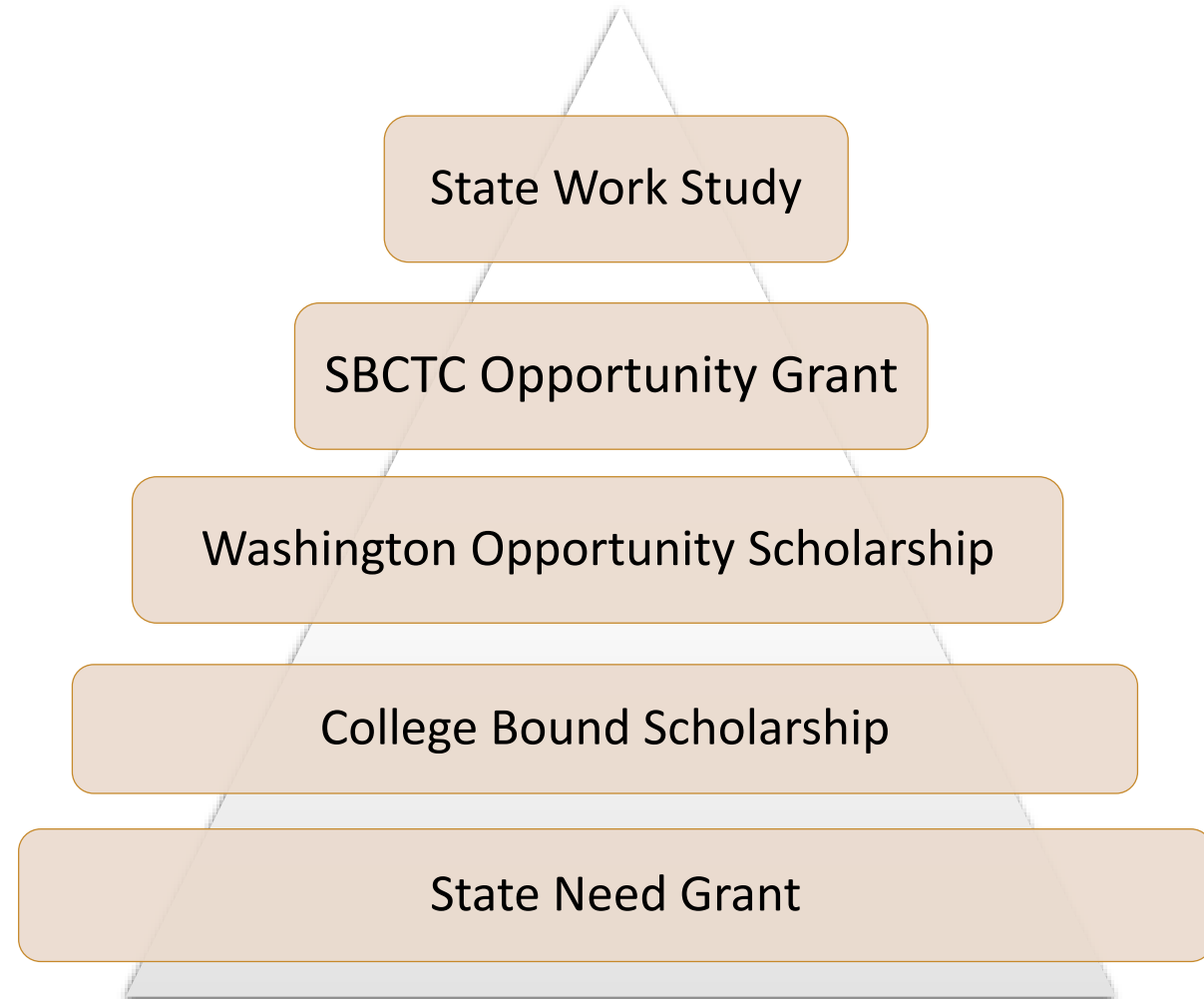
Eight states account for 70% of need-based grant aid (\$5.5 Billion)

- California
- New York
- Texas
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Washington
- Illinois
- North Carolina



# Washington has strong state aid programs.

Programs target low-income students, high-demand fields, and work-based learning.





## Grant programs serve different students.

	<b>State Need Grant</b>	<b>College Bound Scholarship</b>	<b>WA Opportunity Scholarship</b>	<b>SBCTC Opportunity Grant</b>
<b>Number Students</b>	68,500	14,600	2,500	4,600
<b>% Two-Year</b>	60%	42%	13%	99%
<b>% Four-Year</b>	40%	58%	87%	1%
<b>% Younger than 24</b>	58%	100%	95%	22%
<b>% Dependent &amp; Avg. Income</b>	45% \$27,600	92% \$28,800	91% \$57,500	10% \$21,600
<b>% Independent &amp; Avg. Income</b>	55% \$15,000	8% \$7,200	9% \$17,800	90% \$12,500
<b>Students of Color</b>	43%	61%	51%	44%
<b>Have Children</b>	25%	3%	2%	50%

**Note: State aid student profile, 2015-16. Unit Record Report.**



# State Need Grant: Washington's Flagship Aid Program

Washington is nationally recognized for its commitment to financial aid.

State Need Grant (SNG) has supported low-income undergraduate students for 48 years.

SNG is a critical strategy to reach the state's attainment goals.

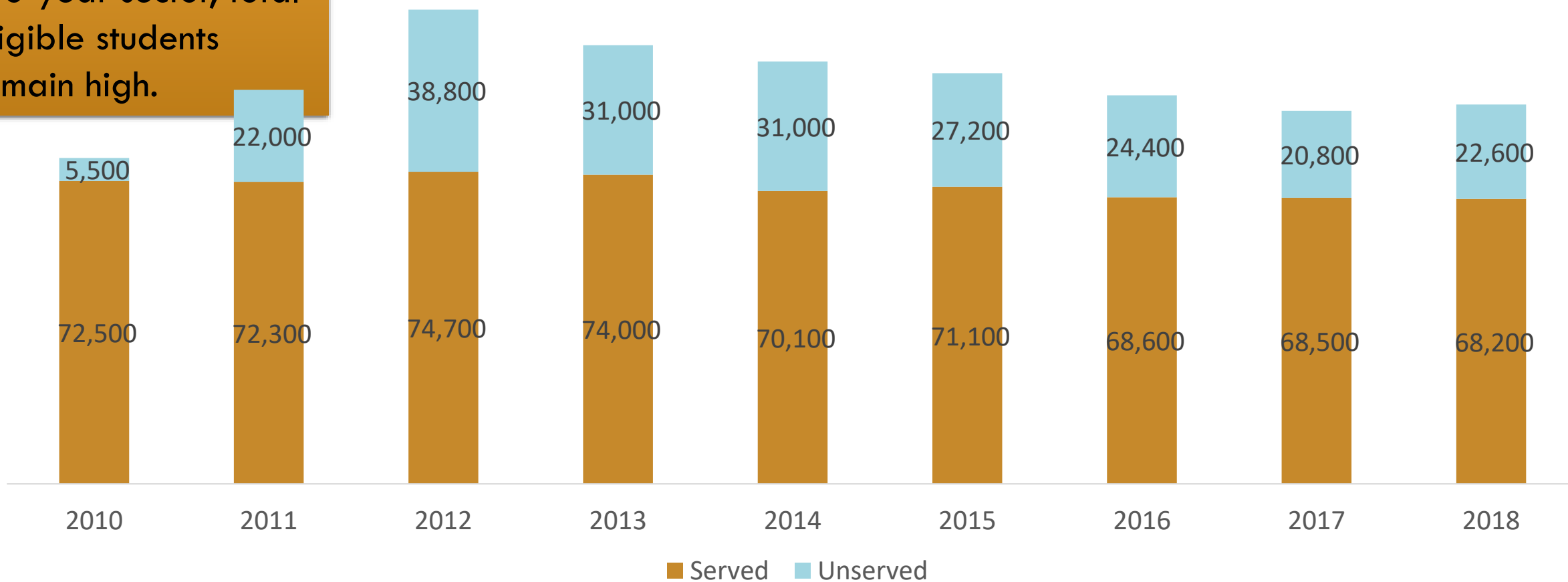
SNG supports the College Bound Scholarship.



# Large numbers of students remain unserved by SNG.

Although enrollments have declined in the two-year sector, total eligible students remain high.

## State Need Grant Service Levels



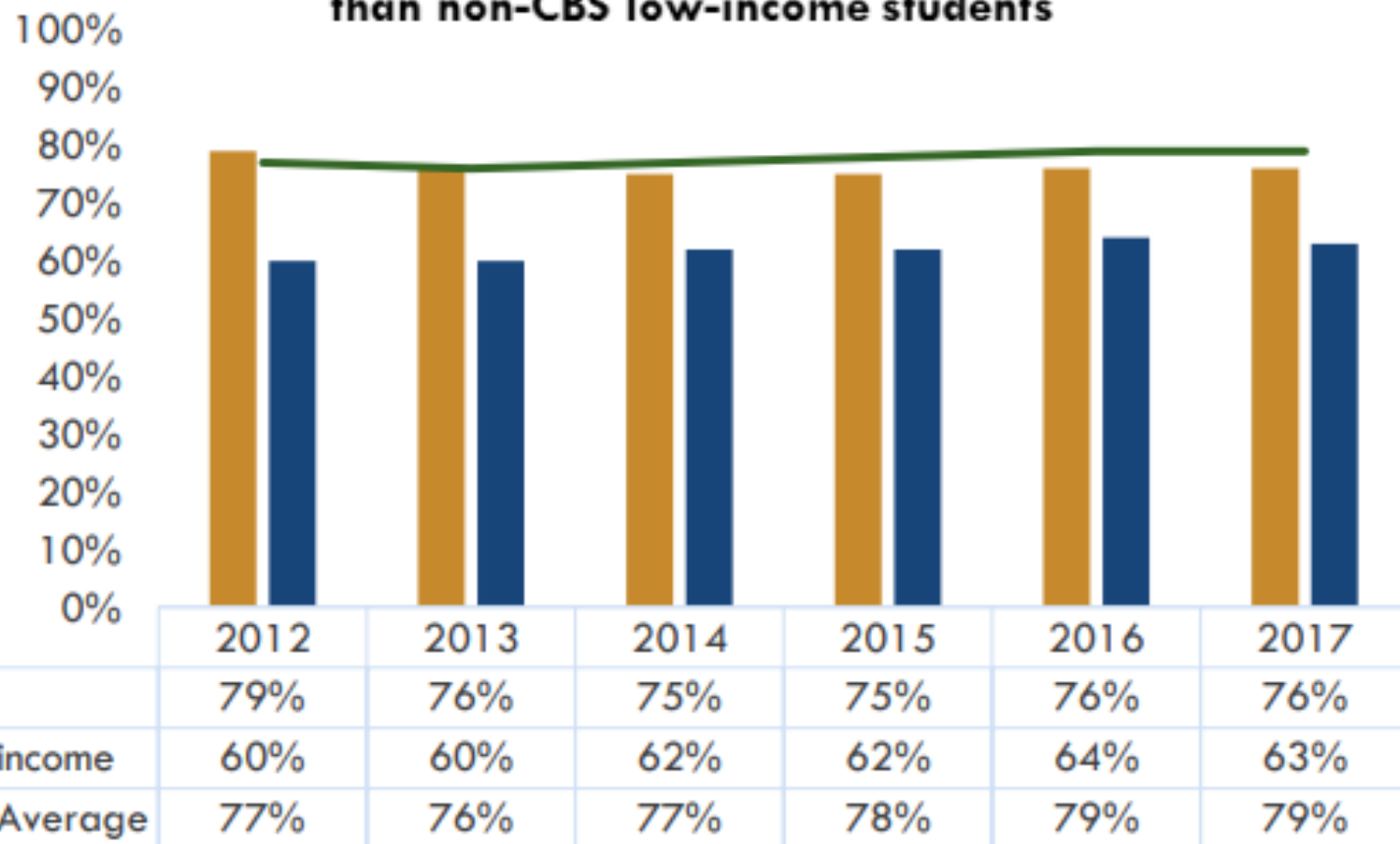




## College Bound Students are graduating at statewide rates.

Graduation rates for CBS students are at least ten percentage points higher than those of their non-CBS low-income peers.

**CBS students graduate from high school at higher rates than non-CBS low-income students**





## Sustained commitment leads to results.

### Stable State Financial Aid

Support low-income students to attend and complete.

Improve transparent communication.

### Predictable Tuition

Help families plan for college costs.

Enable institutions to plan long-term.

### Supported Institutions

Provide quality pathways and instruction.

Support student success and completion.

Stable  
funding

Quality  
institutions

Commitment  
to  
Affordability



# Continue the conversation

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