



Postsecondary Education Affordability

TASK FORCE ON STUDENT
SUCCESS FOR
UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Affordability: Multi-Dimensional Problem

Requires a Multi-Dimensional Solution

We focus today primarily on state-funded financial aid and access programs, but numerous other equity and student success initiatives also impact affordability.

Minimize the need for tuition increases

Create low-cost pathways to complete lower-division courses (*i.e. accelerated learning, Oregon Promise*)

Improve graduation rates

Support innovations that reduce costs (*eg open educational resources*)

Increase grant aid for the lowest-income students

Smooth transfer pathways to four-year institutions

Reduce barriers to fields/careers associated with high earnings

Oregon Students Face Cost Challenges Beyond Tuition

Average Student Budgets: Oregon Postsecondary Institutions, 2021-22

	Tuition & Fees	Books & Supplies	Room & Board	Personal Expenses & Transportation	TOTAL
Community Colleges	\$6,019	\$1,354	\$10,578	\$3,172	\$21,124
Public Universities	\$11,730	\$1,091	\$12,553	\$2,801	\$28,177
Private Institutions*	\$37,344	\$1,007	\$12,943	\$2,978	\$54,204

These are average estimates based upon tuition and standard fees based on full-time, full-year enrollment at 15 credits per term. Actual student budgets vary widely depending on student circumstances, from availability of housing options to the variety of books/supplies costs for different programs of study.

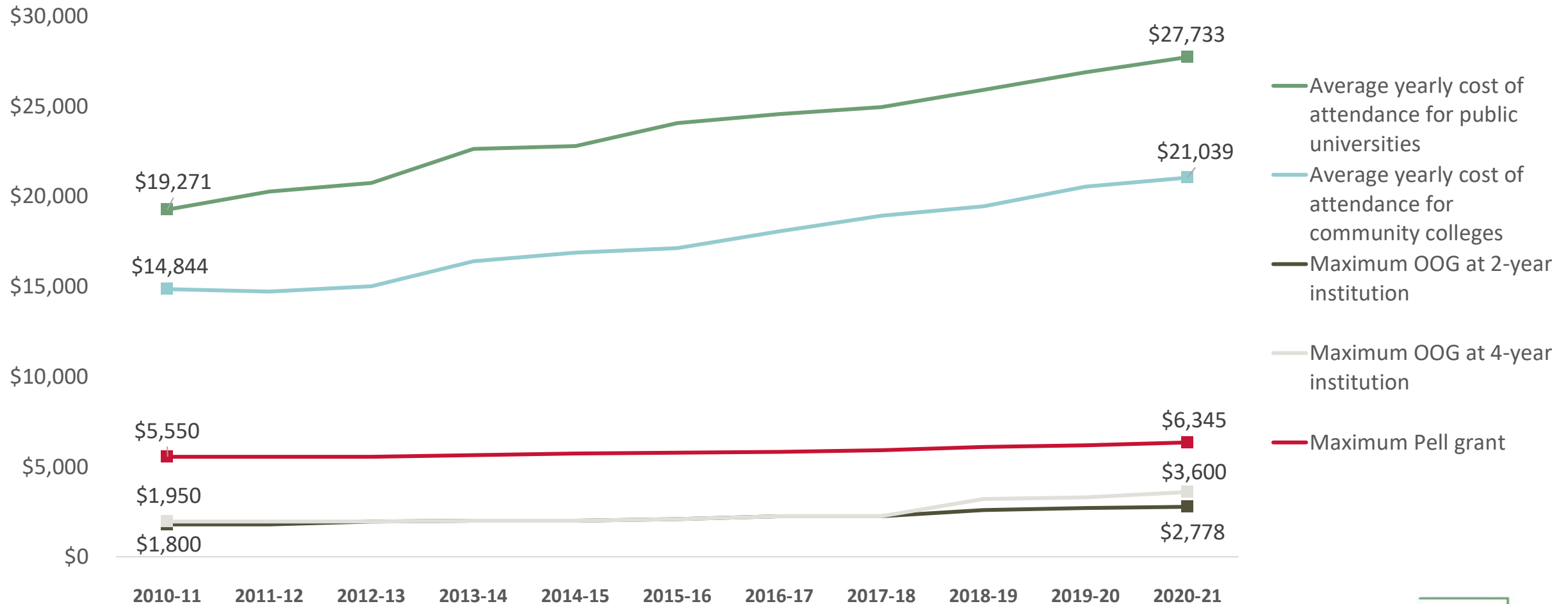
*Private institutions includes only Oregon degree-granting private institutions that are eligible for Oregon Opportunity Grant funds.

Sources: HECC-OSAC “2021-22 Standard Student Budgets for Oregon Public Postsecondary Institutions”
<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/plan-pay-for-college/Documents/OSAC/Student%20Budgets.pdf>.

Cost of Attendance Rises Each Year: Public Institutions

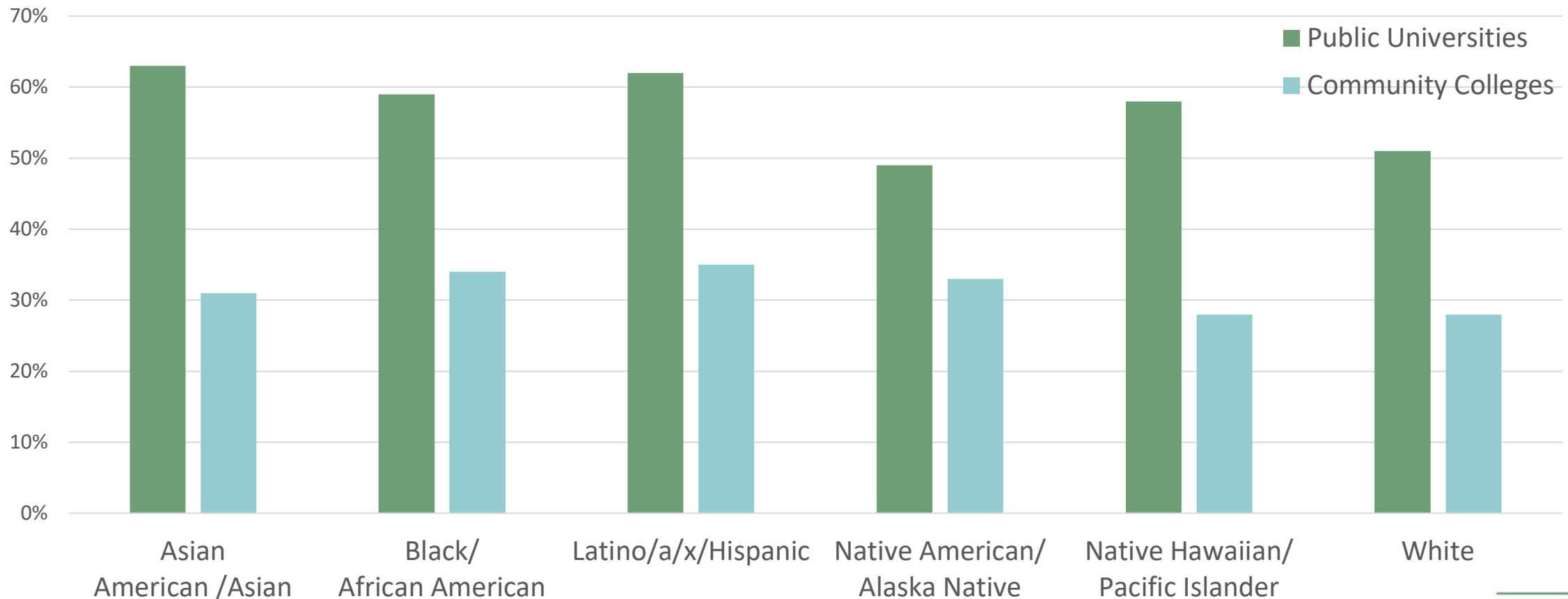
State and federal grants trail behind college cost

Average Public Institution Cost of Attendance and Maximum Need Based Financial Aid over Time



Close to half of students enrolling in public colleges and universities cannot afford the cost

Percentage of in-state students who cannot meet expected costs after public grant aid, most institutional aid, expected family contributions, and estimated student earnings, by race/ethnicity and by sector (2020-21)



Source: HECC analysis of Oregon public university and community college student records.

Notes: Restricted to resident, undergraduate university students and community college students who attempted at least one credit. Limited only to those students who filed a Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA).

An Affordability Crisis for Oregonians

Financial aid has not kept up with the rising cost of attendance

- While the cost of attending college has risen every year, the maximum amounts of need-based aid have lagged.

College is unaffordable for too many

- In 2019-20, 64% of students did not receive any grant aid
- In 2019-20, 43% of students were unable to meet expenses after counting for their expected resources: family contributions, student earnings, and grant aid.

Oregon's funding of financial aid falls far below the national average and is much lower than our West Coast peers

- State financial aid per student in FY 2021: \$574 in Oregon, compared with \$1,904 in Washington, \$1,804 in California, and \$921 US average.

Too Many Oregon Students Face Food and Housing Insecurity



College students are struggling with basic needs.

In the largest national survey performed by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab (surveying students at 227 institutions nationwide), **62% of community college students and 51% of university students were food or housing insecure**, and this was more prevalent among former foster youth, underrepresented students of color and first-generation students.

Out of 8,100 respondents at **Oregon community colleges**:

- 41% were food insecure in the prior 30 days.
- 52% of were housing insecure in the prior year.
- 20% were homeless in the prior year.

"#RealCollege 2020: Five Years of Evidence on Campus Basic Needs Insecurity, based on a survey of 167,000 students at 227 colleges and universities nationwide". By C. Baker-Smith, V. Coca, S. Goldrick-Rab, E. Looker, B. Richardson, and T. Williams. The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice. February 2020. https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019_RealCollege_Survey_Report.pdf. Oregon community college data at https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019_OregonCC_Report_v2.pdf

Most Students Today Can't Cover Costs Without Loans



On average, Oregon undergraduate students graduate from a public college or university with \$19,214 in debt.

The majority of public postsecondary students in Oregon seeking financial aid do not receive enough to meet college costs without loans.

Loan debt disproportionately burdens underrepresented students:

Among public university graduates, most students of color graduate with more debt, on average, than white students.

Loan debt among low-income students negatively affects retention (Herzog 2018) and completion (Franke 2019).*

HECC Key Performance Metrics, HECC Statewide Snapshots.

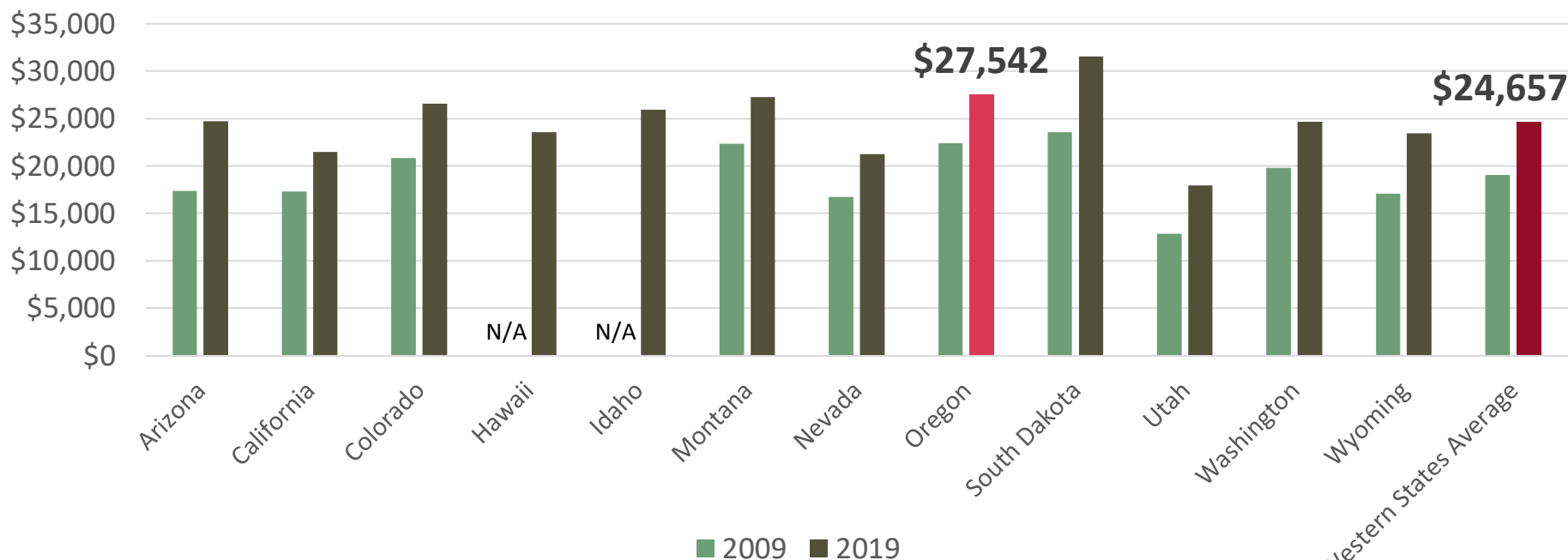
Sources: a) Herzog, Serge. "Financial aid and college persistence: Do student loans help or hurt?." Research in Higher Education 59.3 (2018): 273-301.

b) Franke, Ray. "Take it, or leave it? Analyzing how unsubsidized federal loans affect six-year degree attainment across income groups." Journal of Student Financial Aid 48.3 (2019)

Oregon Student Loan Debt Burden has Increased, and is Higher than Average among Western States for Bachelor's Degree Recipients (Public and Private combined)

Oregon students graduate from 4-year institutions with more debt, on average, than their neighbors in other Western states, and this debt load has increased in the last decade.

Average Loan Amount for Bachelor's Degree Recipients from Public & Private Institutions, 2009 vs. 2019, Western (WICHE) States



Adapted from The Institute for College Access and Success, "Project on Student Debt" https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/classof2009.pdf and https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/classof2019.pdf. Percentage of Graduates with Debt and Average Debt of those with Loans, by State. Note - For Hawaii and Idaho in 2009 no average calculation was done because the number of usable cases with student debt data covered less than 30% of bachelor's degree recipients in the Class of 2009 or the underlying data for that state showed a change of 30% or more in average debt from the previous year.

Grant Aid—Especially State Aid—Is Proven to Support Completion

Of the many forms of financial aid, state grant aid is where the state has influence.

Forms of Financial Aid

Institution or Program Scholarships (privately-funded)

Institutional Fee Remissions (Tuition Discounts)

Campus Work Study

Private Student Loans

Private Scholarships and Grants

Federal Pell Grant

Other Federal Grants (Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, TEACH grants, etc.)

Federal Work Study

Federal Student Loans

State Grants (Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon Promise, etc.)

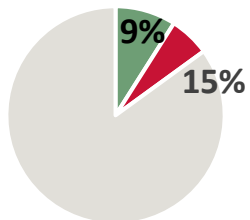
Any grant aid (public or private, need-based or merit-based) increases a student's probability of completing their degree program.

Federal grant aid increases a students' probability of completing their degree by 1.2 percentage points (on-time completion) and 1.7 percentage points (delayed completion).

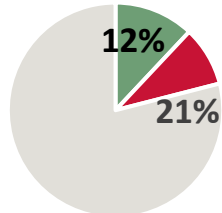
State grant aid, in particular, increases the probability that a student will complete their degree, by 2.5 percentage points for on-time completion and 3.0 percentage points for delayed completion.

Despite Public Grants, the Financial Burden of College Remains Much Greater for Low-Income Families

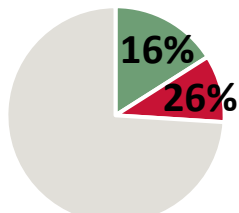
If you earn \$110,000 or more...



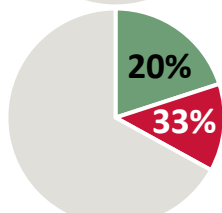
If you earn \$75,001-\$110,000/yr.



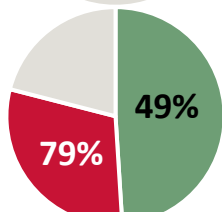
If you earn \$48,001-\$75,000/yr.



If you earn \$30,001-\$48,000/yr.



If you earn \$0-\$30,000/yr.



■ Portion of income to pay for cost of attendance at community college
 ■ Portion of income to pay for cost of attendance at public university

Note: Percentages based on the median for each income bracket.

In Oregon in 2018-19, low-income families in the lowest-income group faced costs that were **49%** of their income for community college and **79%** of their income for public universities.

Oregon's
Investment in
Need-Based
Financial Aid: The
Oregon
Opportunity Grant



Need-Based Aid: The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)

2021-23 OOG budget: \$200 M.

Students may use OOG awards to defray any college-related expenses at eligible Oregon institutions for up to four years of full-time enrollment.

The OOG is awarded to the highest-need (ie lowest-income) Oregon students, based on FAFSA/ORSAA's determination of the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Based on the legislative appropriation, HECC annually determines award amounts and EFC thresholds.

2022-23 Award maximums
(full-time students)

- **\$3,600** per year
(community college)
- **\$4,692** per year
(public university/private nonprofit 4-year institution)

GOAL:

- To increase college enrollment, completion, and affordability for Oregon students who have demonstrated financial need.

OOG: Eligibility Requirements for Students

Be a U.S. citizen or permanent noncitizen resident*

Be a resident of Oregon
or a federally recognized tribe with historical ties to Oregon

Attend an eligible public/private college or university based in Oregon

Be pursuing an undergraduate degree

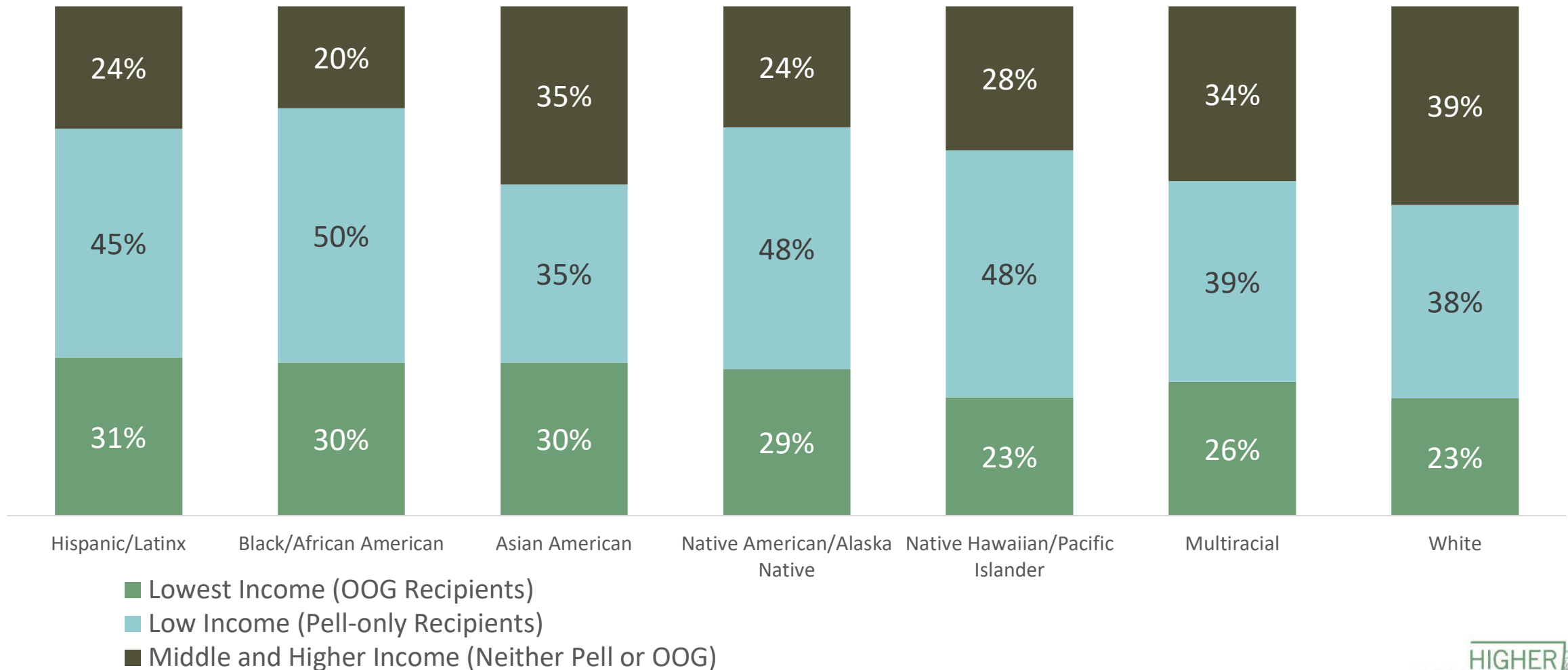
Be enrolled at least half-time

Demonstrate financial need (EFC)

*Also students eligible for in-state tuition under Tuition Equity guidelines

The OOG Disproportionately Serves Our Students of Color

Distribution of Oregon students across EFC levels for racial/ethnic groups



Public Aid: High Demand vs. Limited Supply

The OOG awards low-income students as far as funding is available, beginning with the students who have the highest financial need.

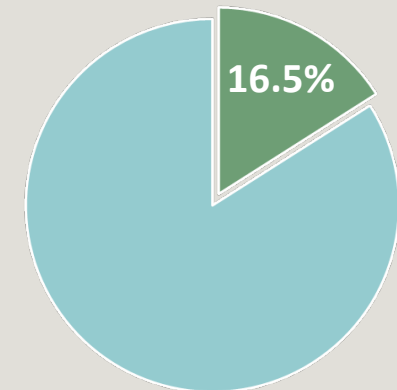
- In a typical year, more than two-thirds of Oregon’s FAFSA/ORSAAs filers have financial need. Only a fraction of those receive an OOG.

As a result of additional investment and reduced demand, the OOG will be available in 2022-23 to students with an EFC up to \$8,000 (approx. \$71,000 annual family income). Award amount decreases as EFC increases.

Despite its recent expansion, the OOG falls well short of covering the affordability gap – even for qualifying students.

- To cover tuition and fees for the very lowest-income students, and provide partial coverage for middle-income students, would require about an additional \$500 M per biennium of state investment.

From 2009-2019, more than **2 million** applications for financial aid qualified as OOG-eligible.



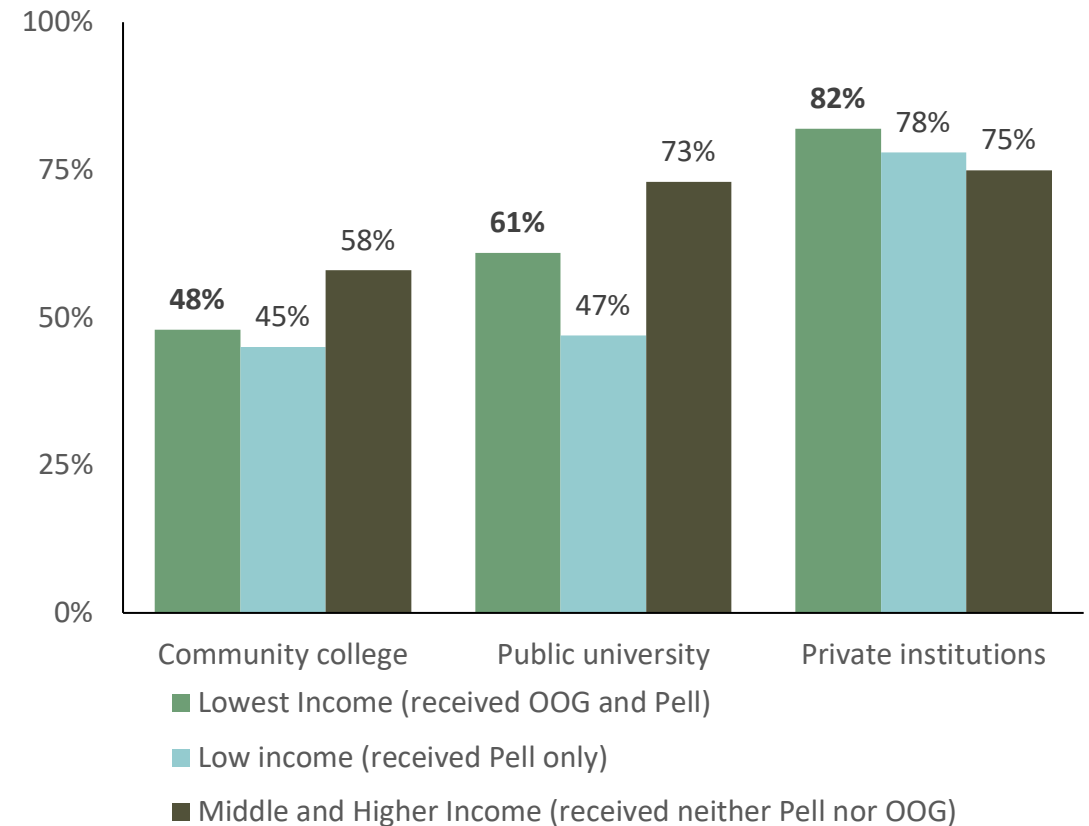
Due to limited funds, only **16.5%** of these students received an OOG award.

OOG Recipients Continued in and Completed Their Degree Programs at Higher Rates than Other Students from Low-income Backgrounds

Students with the OOG are slightly **more likely to return** after their first year in college and are **more likely to earn** a certificate or degree than other low-income students.

Students with the OOG who complete a degree are also able to **complete their degree slightly faster** than other low-income students.

Completion rate by educational sector and EFC level



Source: HECC-R&D, January 2021, "Annual Evaluation of the Oregon Opportunity Grant: House Bill 2407 (2015)"
<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Documents/Reports/HECC-HB-2407-OOG-2021-Report.pdf>

Investing in Student Aid Raises Graduation Rates, and More Oregonians Experience the Benefits of Postsecondary Education

Research shows that state grants increase **the chance that students will complete their degrees by 2.5 to 3 percentage points.***

Students who receive the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) are **more likely to return** after their first year and **are more likely to graduate** than other low-income Oregon students.**

Nearly **one-third** of OOG recipients come from marginalized groups including underserved racial/ethnic groups, women, rural, and first-generation students.

These students have a greater chance of higher earnings, and bring myriad economic and civic benefits to their communities.

*Source: Nguyen, T. D., Kramer, J. W., & Evans, B. J. (2019). The Effects of Grant Aid on Student Persistence and Degree Attainment: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Causal Evidence. *Review of Educational Research*, 89(6), 831-874.

(<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3102/0034654319877156>)

**HECC Oregon Opportunity Grant Annual Report



The Oregon Promise Grant



The Oregon Promise Grant (OPG)

Funds for community college tuition for recent high school/GED graduates

2021-23 Budget: \$42.2 M.

Can be used at any Oregon community college, for up to 90 college credits.

For recent high school/GED graduates only.

2022-23 award amounts (full-time student):

- Tuition minus other grants, including OOG.
- Minimum: \$2,000 per year
- Maximum: \$4,128 per year



GOAL:

- To increase college enrollment, completion, and affordability for recent high school graduates and GED[®] test graduates.

OPG: Student Eligibility Requirements



Earn High School Degree or Equivalent

- Graduate from an Oregon high school with a 2.0+ GPA
- Or pass the GED[®] test



Enroll in Community College

- Attend college within 6 months of your HS/GED[®] graduation
- And enroll in at least 6 college credits

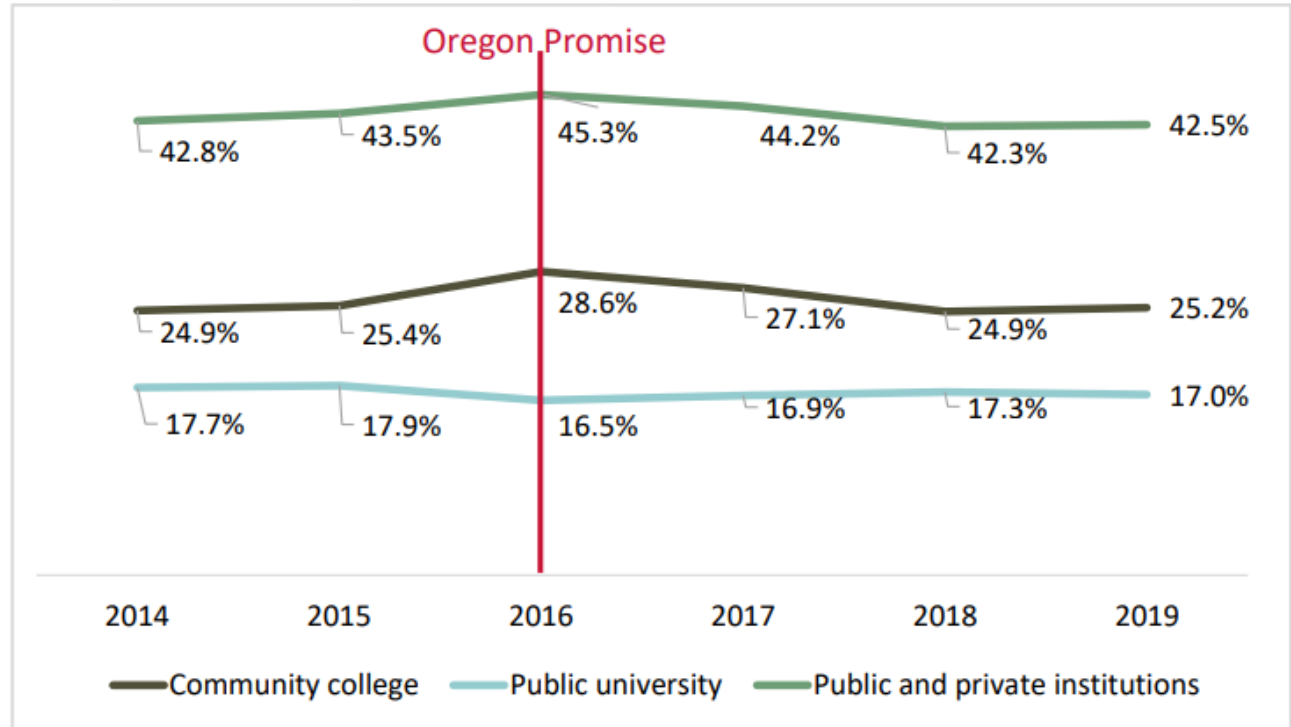
OPG: Impact on Student Achievement

Initial program launch led to surge in college-going rates but these rates soon returned to previous levels.

Possible reasons:

- Public awareness strongest in first year
- Instability in program funding
- Students entering workforce rather than college during the strong pre-pandemic economy

Percentage of Oregon high school graduates attending an Oregon college or university the fall after graduation.



OPG 2020 Report Findings

OPG Recipients and Student Impacts

- Slightly more likely to be women and Hispanic/Latinx
- 75% of recipients return for a second year of the program
- 1st cohort of Promise students appears to have earned their degree somewhat faster than HS graduates did prior to OPG's existence



Financial Impacts

- Program's design capitalizes on federal aid dollars for low-income students (Pell grants)
- OPG award has had smaller impacts as tuition and cost of attendance rise each year

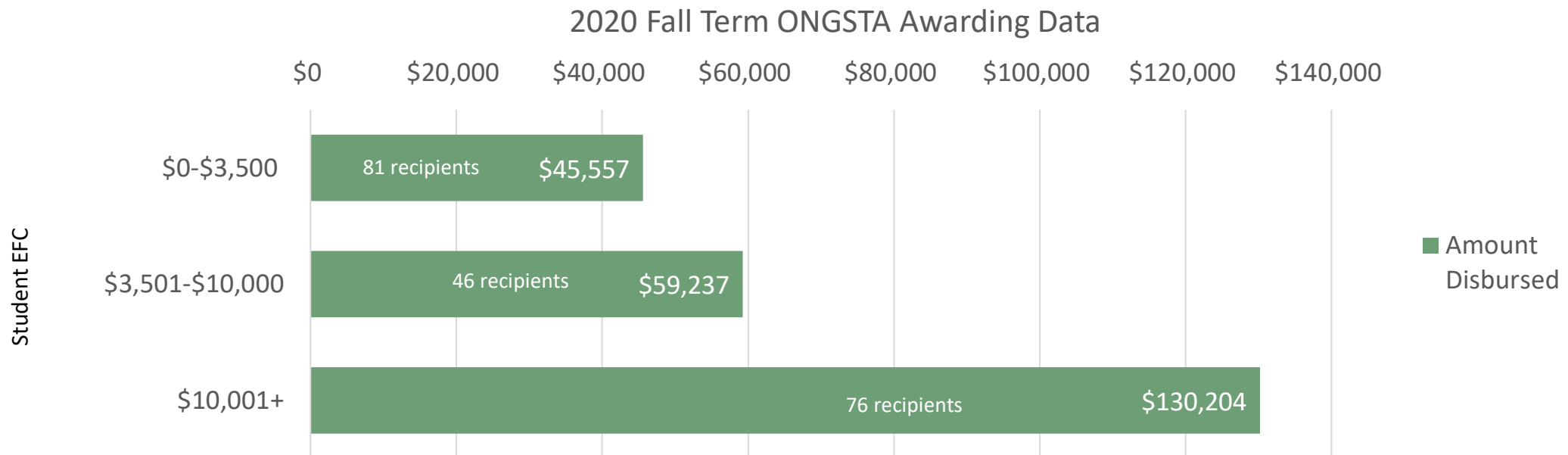
Other State Grant and Scholarship Programs



EOU

Oregon National Guard Tuition Assistance (ONGSTA)

- ONGSTA provides financial aid to active drilling members of the Oregon National Guard (Air or Army) to pay for their college tuition
- Usable at Oregon community colleges, public universities, and eligible private institutions
- Provides aid to those who are not qualifying for other low-income financial aid programs



Because of the last-dollar structure, a disproportionate amount of awards go to higher-income students.

Oregon Student Child Care Grant

Support for Parents Pursuing a Degree

Grant provides funds for college students to pay for their childcare needs

Eligible applicants have a dependent under the age of 12

- Dependent can exceed 12 years old if the dependent qualifies as having special needs

Students must use an eligible childcare provider and be pursuing an undergrad degree

Grant Recipients

- Nearly every recipient is Pell eligible and most recipients are OOG eligible
- Majority of these students have an EFC of 0
- Most students are pursuing a 4-year degree

Recent Awarding

2019-20: 84 students awarded \$466,038

2020-21: 108 students awarded \$721,344*

*This includes additional funding from eBoard

School Year	Total Students	Total Degrees	% Receiving Degrees
2014-15	81	66	81%
2015-16	85	65	76%
2016-17	88	71	81%
2017-18	85	63	74%
2018-19	86	55	64%
2019-20	84	31	37%*

Additional Financial Aid Programs

Chafee Education and Training Grant

- Funding to help current or former foster care youth
- Federal program administered at state level by OSAC and Oregon DHS's Independent Living Program (ILP)
- Students are eligible for a maximum of 5 years or until age 26

JOBS Plus

- Postsecondary education funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients
- Participants redeem funds from Individual Education Accounts (IEAs)

Barbers & Hairdressers Grant

- For students attending eligible schools of barbering, hair design, manicure, or cosmetology
- Grants based on interest earnings from endowment fund

Deceased or Disabled Public Safety Officer Grant

- Funding for dependents of Oregon public safety officers who were killed or disabled in the line of duty
- Public safety officers include: corrections, fire service, parole and probation, among others

OSAC Scholarships Program

Matching Private Donors with Oregon Students

Catalog of 600+ privately-funded scholarships, which students can apply for through a single application.
Variety of scholarship types available to students (need-based, merit-based, community-based, etc.)

Over 3,000 students are awarded a scholarship each year.

Award amounts range from \$500 to \$40,000

- Average award: \$4,700

For the 2019-20 school year, students received over \$19 million for their postsecondary education

- 2018-19: \$18.7 million
- 2017-18: \$17.7 million



FAFSA/ORSAA Completion Efforts

The logo for FAFSA PLUS+ features the word "FAFSA" in blue and "PLUS+" in green, with a plus sign.

Our **FAFSA Plus+** sites gain access to current student-level FAFSA data, allowing their staff to provide targeted assistance to high school seniors and their families. Nearly 250 schools and CBOs are sites.



FAFSA/ORSAA Challenge

- Campaign to promote FAFSA/ORSAA completion; goal of increasing school's senior class completion rate by 5% relative to the prior year
- OSAC partnership with the Oregon Department of Education, OASFAA, Oregon Goes to College, and ECMC: The College Place Oregon

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) | Oregon Student Aid Application (**ORSAA**)

- Students are not eligible for public or institutional aid without completing the FAFSA or ORSAA

ASPIRE: Promoting College & Career Readiness for 20+ Years

The statewide college and career readiness program administered by OSAC

What We Do

- 1:1 and group mentoring for middle school and high school students via local volunteers
- Help students figure out their college/career goals, make a plan for their future, and determine how to pay for it
- Provide grant funding to sites in support of ASPIRE outreach and programming
- Support site coordinators through capacity building activities and technical support

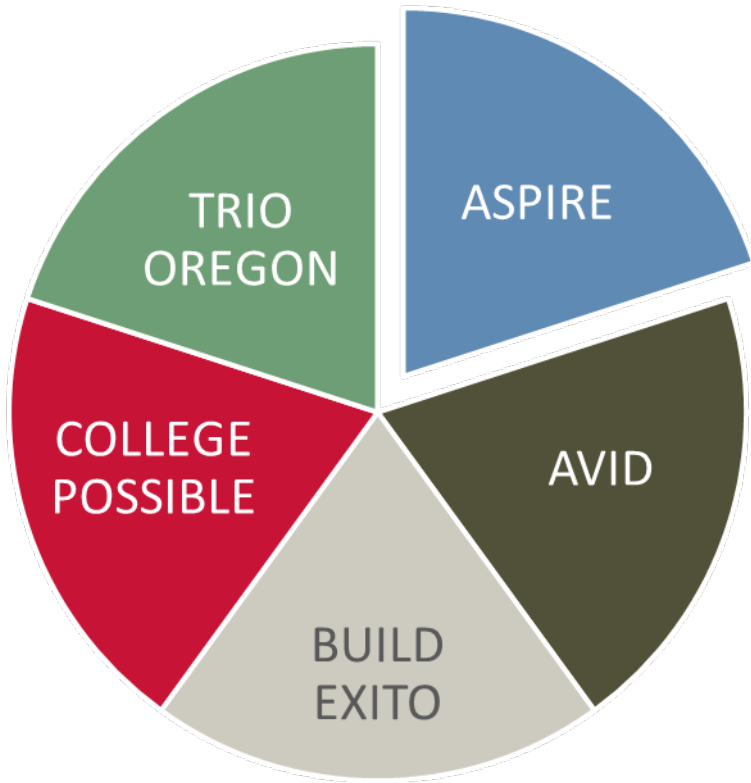


Goals & Outcomes

- Build a college-going atmosphere
- Increase # of students securing financial aid
- More students create a post high school plan
- Foster stronger community connections

Partners in College Access

2021-23 budget includes \$5.0M in the HECC budget to fund college outreach and support programs, with \$1.0M going to each of:



ASPIRE: Office of Student Access and Completion program that trains volunteer mentors to work with middle and high school students on college and career planning

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination): non-profit that partners with K-12 schools on equitable, student-centered approaches to preparing all students for college and career through differentiated social and academic supports.

BUILD EXITO DIRECTORS FUND: program at Portland State University providing comprehensive research training through tailored curriculum, developmental mentoring, and long-term research internships for students historically underrepresented in the health and biomedical sciences.

COLLEGE POSSIBLE: non-profit that supports college admission and success for students from low-income backgrounds through an intensive curriculum of coaching and near-peer support from high school through college graduation.

OREGON TRIO ASSOCIATION: non-profit representing 45 TRIO programs across the state focused on promoting educational equity by increasing access for low-income, first-generation, and traditionally underserved students in higher education.

Schools with Outreach Programs Experience Higher FAFSA Completion Rates

FAFSA Completion Rate for HS seniors

Schools without FAFSA+	27.1%
Schools with FAFSA+	43.3%
Schools without ASPIRE	36.7%
Schools with ASPIRE	46.1%

<u>Large Schools (100 or more seniors)</u>	<u>Completion Rate</u>	<u>FAFSA+</u>	<u>ASPIRE</u>
Grant High	74.6%	X	X
Wilson High	73.3%	X	X
Ashland High	72.4%	X	X
Cleveland High	69.6%	X	X
Franklin High	68.4%	X	X
Lincoln High	65.3%	X	X
Lakeridge High	63.8%	X	
Benson Polytechnic High	63.4%	X	X
South Eugene High	63.3%	X	
West Linn High	62.9%		
Sunset High	62.8%	X	X
Sherwood High	60.1%	X	

