

Title	Affordability Update				
Staff lead	Marc Webster				
Position	Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor				
Email	marcw@wsac.wa.gov				
Phone	360.753.7862				
Synopsis	Council staff will present updated data on affordability in Washington and State Need Grant's role in making college affordable. This follows the Council's Affordability Symposium and a meeting with stakeholders in 2016.				
Guiding questions	 How has affordability changed, and how can we make more progress? What messages resonate with the public, with legislators, and with other stakeholders? How can we best align our messaging to ensure the Legislature hears a consistent message? 				
Possible Council Action	☑ Information/Discussion☐ Approve/Adopt☐ Other				
Documents and Attachments	 □ Brief/Report ☑ PowerPoint □ Third-party materials □ Other 				



State Financial Aid Updates

Council Meeting Marc Webster October 12, 2017





Washington has strong state aid programs



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



Grant programs serve different students



	State Need Grant	College Bound Scholarship	WA Opportunity Scholarship	SBCTC Opportunity Grant
Number Students	68,532	14,603	2,490	4,564
% Two-Year	60%	42%	13%	99%
% Four-Year	40%	58%	87%	1%
% Younger than 24	58%	100%	95%	62%
% Dependent & Avg. Income	45% \$27,629	92% \$28,835	91% \$57,454	10% \$21,580
% Independent & Avg. Income	55% \$14,966	8% \$7,225	9% \$17,753	90% \$12,545
Students of Color	43%	61%	51%	44%
Have Children	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.

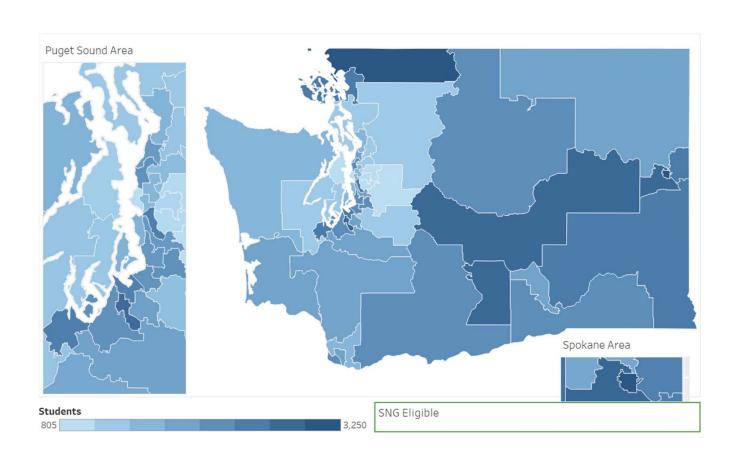
State Need Grant (SNG) has supported low-income undergraduate students for 48 years.

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

SNG supports the College Bound Scholarship.

SNG students are from nearly every region of the state





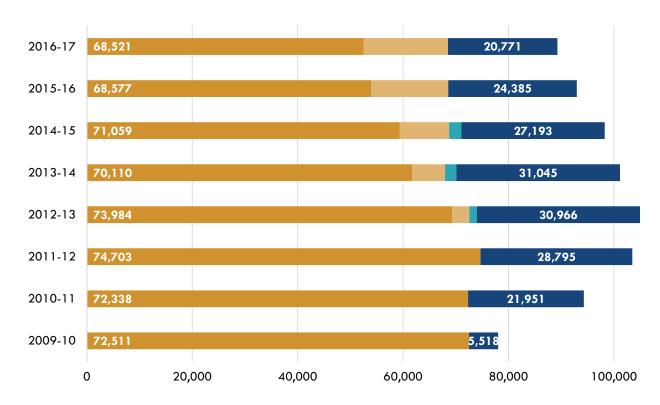
Large numbers of students remain unserved



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



SNG Service Levels



State Need Grant leads to improved student outcomes



Receipt of State Need Grant is associated with higher re-enrollment and completion rates.

 A 25% change in the SNG award amount results in a 4 to 8 percentage point change in completion rates for the lowest income students.

(WSIPP Study: Bania, N., Burley, M., & Pennucci, A., 2013)

State Need Grant leads to higher retention in the CTCs.

• 71% of SNG students who start in the fall remain enrolled compared to 59% of unserved students.

(SBCTC, 2013)



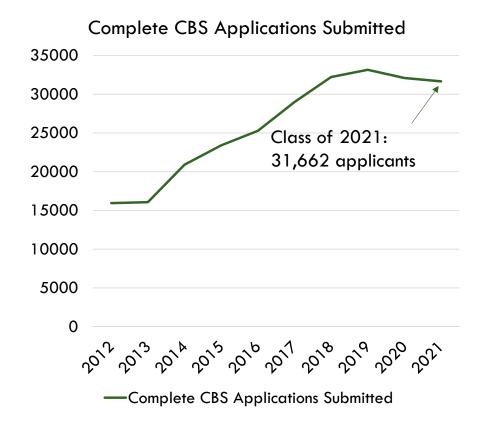
Over 250,000 students have applied for College Bound



Students pledge to:

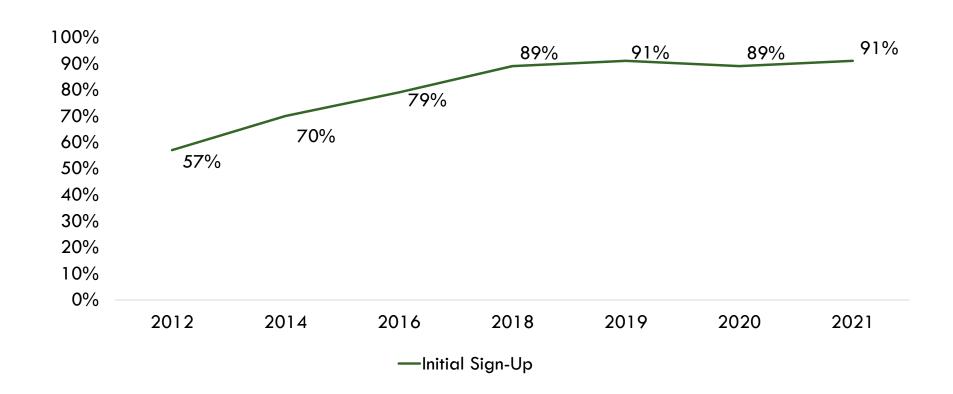
- Graduate high school with at least a 2.0 GPA
- Stay crime free
- Prepare for and get admitted to college
- Apply for admissions & financial aid in a timely manner





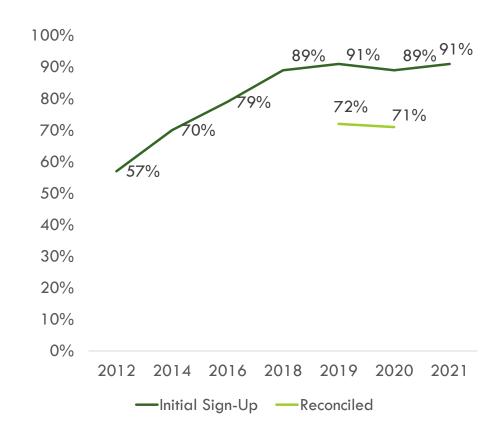
Applications have increased over time





Yet many have missed the opportunity





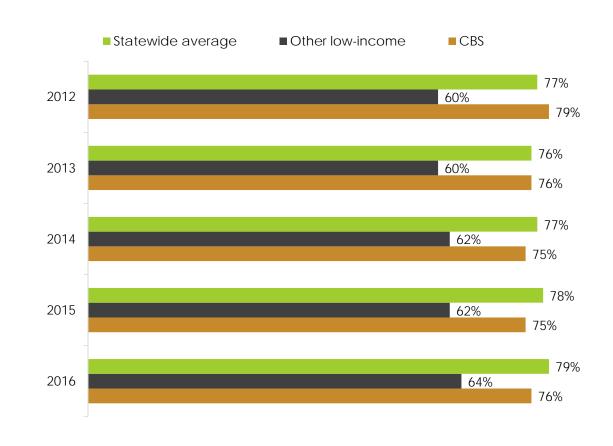
Reconciled rates

 capture increases in the
 number of eligible students
 and describe the gap more
 accurately.

College Bound students are graduating at higher rates



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



Above average postsecondary enrollment and persistence

CBS Enrollment



Caseload Forecast Council projects 20,885 income eligible enrollments in 2019.

Enrolling at higher rates than statewide (64% compared to 61% in 2014).

Rate of immediate enrollment decreased as the size of the cohort grew.

Of those who enroll, 92% did so immediately.

47% attend four-year institutions.

1st to 2nd year of college was 74% (2015 to 2016) compared to 70% nationally.

74% of scholars had HS GPA above 2.5.



CBS Persistence

Survey results indicate need for improved information



Students who believe they qualify take action.

35% do not plan to enroll immediately

Majority to earn money.

Most receive encouragement from an adult & participated in college prep.

College prep activities lead to increased understanding of program. Students suggest expanded info & supports.



State Work Study supports students and employers



SWS provides work-based learning opportunities—invaluable experiences.

SWS leverages employer contributions to serve more students.

Employers appreciate supporting trainees.

State Work Study overview



- 10% are graduate students
- Average earnings \$2,800
- Requires positions related to academic and career interests
- 40-year-old program



Why do students participate?



44% to pay for food.

69% to pay school-related expenses.

39% to gain career-related experience.

36% to contribute to family's finances.

22% as sole support for family.

33% to strengthen resume.

38% to expand professional networks.



