

State Grant Program

The Minnesota State Grant program is the state's best tool to help students earn the post-high school credentials that align with their interests and prepare them to succeed in today's economy.

The State Grant program makes college more affordable by helping cover the costs families and students can't afford. Determined by financial need, State Grant awards help low- and middle-income students. More than half of college students who receive State Grant awards have family incomes at or below \$40,000. The program also serves middle-income families.

And the reach is broad: Students receiving awards attend part-time and full-time, pursuing certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. They are adult learners as well as traditional-age students. And they attend Minnesota State, University of Minnesota and private nonprofit institutions.

Today's challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has derailed many people's college plans, with fewer Minnesotans enrolling in college. Left unaddressed, the impact would be serious. Lower numbers of Minnesotans earning post-high school credentials will mean lower future incomes for thousands. Employers and our state's economy will feel the impact too from the resulting future shortages in college-educated workers.

- Enrollment in post-high school degree programs has dropped 9 percent between 2019 and 2021.
- There have been even higher drops in enrollment in post-high school programs among low-income students, students of color and Native American students, and students attending institutions in rural areas. In 2020-21 college enrollment of low-income students in Minnesota dropped 12 percent compared to a 2 percent drop in enrollment of middle- and upper-income students.
- Seventy percent of jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage require a post-high school degree or certificate.

Need for new student investment

Investing in students through the State Grant program is more critical than ever. That's how we can turn around the drop in college enrollment and prepare Minnesotans to succeed in their careers.

And there's the simple fact that State Grants have not kept up with the financial need of students and families. The program currently expects students to pay too much. *College students need these grants to be increased so they address the reality of what they and their families can afford to pay.*



"The grant program has impacted my ability to attend St. Kate's because it helped take off the stress of me searching for ways to pay for school and instead spend that time on my academics."

Jaycee Rhodes,
St. Catherine University, '24

Hometown: St. Paul
Major: Business Administration
Minor: Leadership and Sales

71,900 students received State Grants in 2020-21.

44% of students from Minnesota attending college in the state receive a State Grant.

59% of Minnesota students of color and Native American students attending college here receive a State Grant.

Directly targets support to low- and middle-income students

Helps students enroll in the programs that are right for them

Builds our future workforce

Holds down student debt

Helps close opportunity gaps in enrollment and completion