

1.5 Financial Aid

Increase need-based financial aid in order to improve access to higher education for Nebraskans with limited financial means.

The 2003 LR 174 Higher Education Task Force recommended increasing need-based financial aid as a means of improving access to higher education for Nebraskans with limited financial resources. Since 2003, Nebraska has increased the amount of state funds allocated for need-based financial aid, thereby making progress toward the goal of improving access to higher education within the state.¹⁷ However, it still ranks among the lowest states in the amount of state-funded, need-based aid provided to students.

Financial aid is even more important today than it was in 2003 as increasing college costs make it more difficult for many Nebraskans to be educated beyond high school. While there are several sources of need-based financial aid available to students, the amount available has not kept up with increasing costs and the corresponding need for more financial aid. This can be illustrated in several ways.

Number of Students Not Served by Nebraska's Opportunity Grant Program

Nebraska allocates state General and lottery funds to a financial aid program called the Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) program. Nebraska Opportunity Grants, also referred to as state grants, are awarded to students who are residents of Nebraska, have not earned a first bachelor's degree, have high financial need, and who are attending eligible Nebraska colleges and universities.¹⁸

As the following discussion illustrates, Nebraska has significantly increased the amount of funding available for state grants to college students. However, the amount of available funding for financial aid continues to be insufficient to meet the needs of an increasing number of students who are eligible to receive state assistance. As a result, only about a third of the students who are eligible for state-funded financial aid receive state grants.

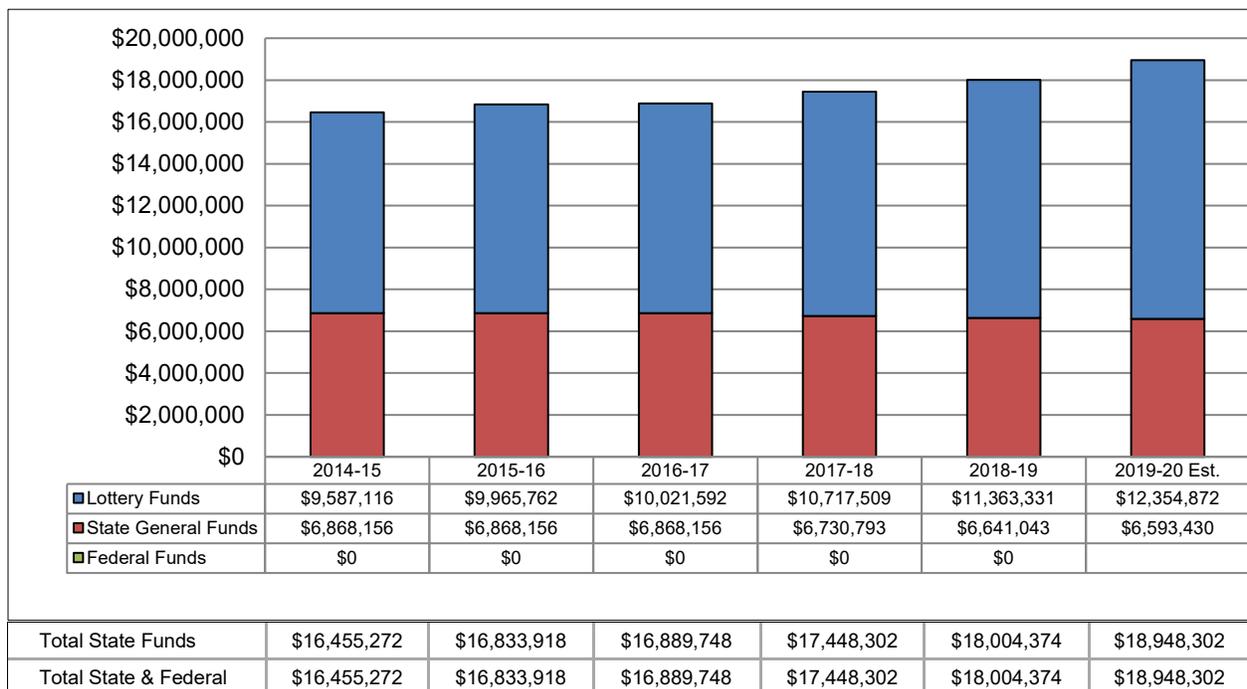
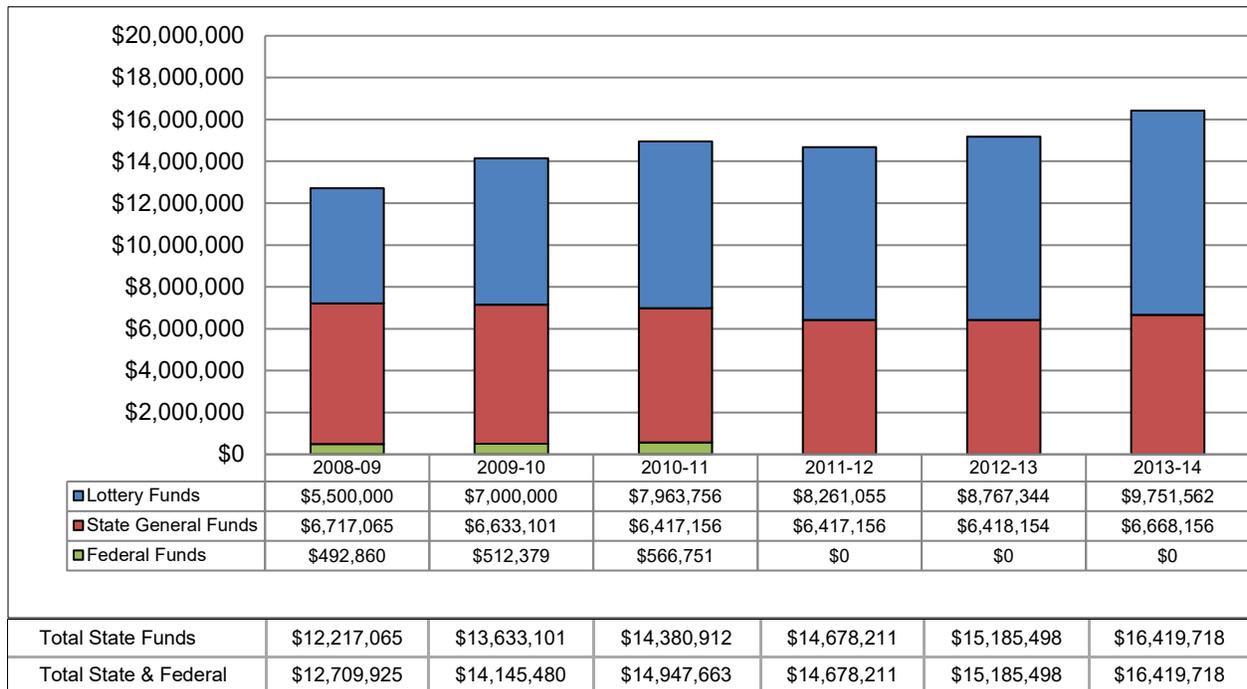
Figure 1.5.1 illustrates how the amount of available funding for state grants has significantly increased since 2008-2009. For the 2008-2009 academic year, the state allocated \$12,217,065 for grant aid to students attending public and private institutions in Nebraska. For 2018-2019, the state allocated \$18,004,374 to assist students from low-income families attend higher education institutions in Nebraska, an increase of 47.4%. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the amount of available state funding for grant aid increased to \$18,948,302, or 5.2% above the amount allocated for 2018-2019. As a result, available state funding for state grants awarded in 2019-2020 is 55.1% higher than the state appropriated for student financial aid in 2008-2009.

Between 2008-2009 and 2019-2020, allocation of lottery funds for state grants increased 106.6%, from \$5,500,000 in 2008-2009 to \$12,354,872 in 2019-2020. Over the same period, appropriations for state grants from the state's General Fund decreased 1.1%, from \$6,717,065 to \$6,593,430. Meanwhile, federal funding increased from \$492,860 in 2008-2009 to \$566,751 in 2010-2011 and was eliminated in 2011-2012.

¹⁷ For more information on tuition, fees, and financial aid, see the *2018 Tuition, Fees, and College Affordability Report*, available on the Commission's website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports.

¹⁸ For more information on the Nebraska Opportunity Grant, see the *Nebraska Opportunity Grant 2018-19 Year-End Report*, available on the Commission's website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports.

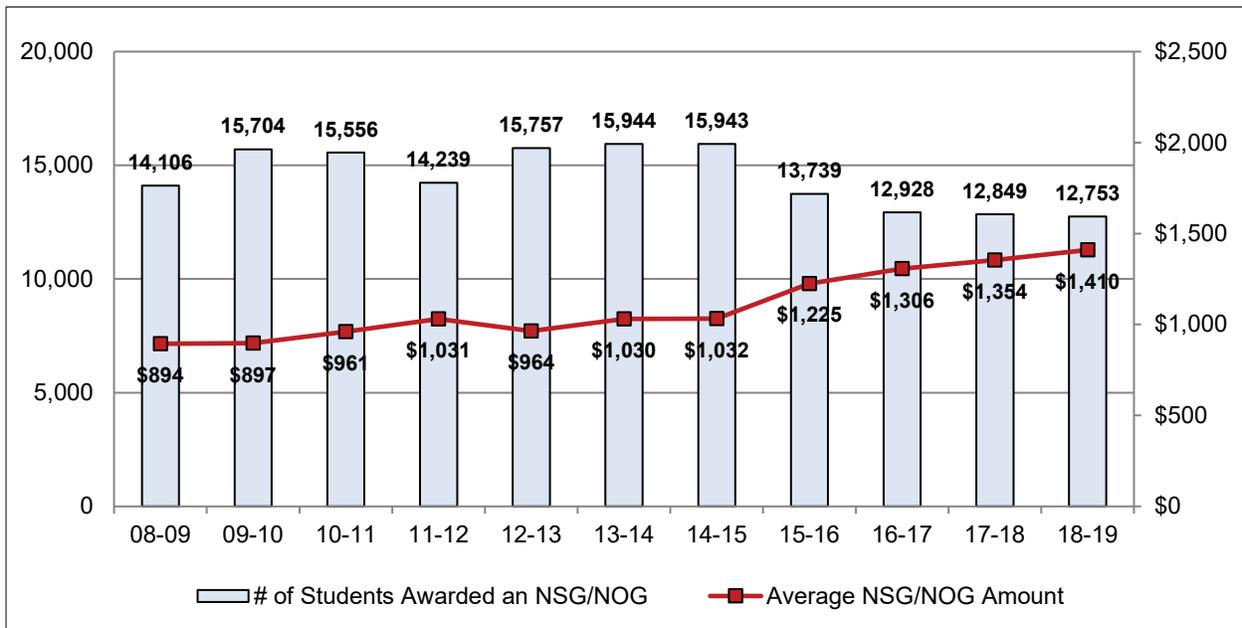
Figure 1.5.1
Sources and Amounts of Available Funding
for the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program
2008-2009 through 2019-2020



Data sources: Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, *2018 Tuition, Fees, and College Affordability Report*, supplemented with CCPE records, December 2019.

Between 2008-2009 and 2018-2019, as shown in [Figure 1.5.2](#), the number of students who received state grants decreased 9.6%, from 14,106 to 12,753, and the average awarded grant increased 57.7%, from \$894 to \$1,410.¹⁹

Figure 1.5.2
Number of Students Who Received
Nebraska Opportunity Grants (NOGs) and the Average Grant Awarded
2008-2009 through 2018-2019



Data source: Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, *Nebraska Opportunity Grant Year-End Report*, 2009 through 2019.

Unfortunately, as shown in [Figure 1.5.3](#), many students who are eligible for state grants do not receive them. In 2018-2019, for example, 12,753 students received state grants. However, based upon expenditure reports submitted to the Commission by each institution, it is estimated that an additional 22,090 students qualified for state grants but did not receive them due to insufficient available funding.

Furthermore, the percentage of eligible students who receive state grants has decreased. In 2008-2009, 48.2% of the students who were eligible for state grants received them. In 2018-2019, only 36.6% of the eligible students received state grants. This decrease is due to state funding not keeping pace with the increases in the numbers of eligible students.²⁰

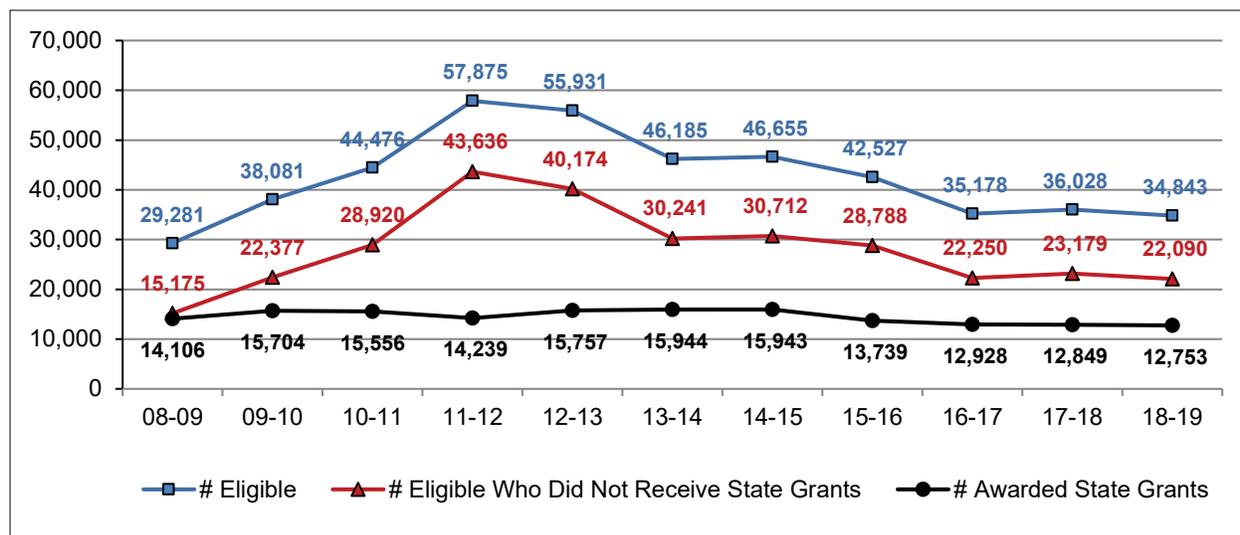
See [Table A8.1](#) and [Table A8.2](#) in [Appendix 8](#) for supporting data and for additional information about the numbers and amounts of Nebraska state grants awarded by sector.

¹⁹ The maximum award a student could receive has been 25% or 50% of the tuition and mandatory fees charged by UNL to a full-time, Nebraska-resident undergraduate student, depending on the year. In 2008-2009, the maximum award was at the 25% level, or \$1,646. For 2018-2019, the maximum award was at the 50% level, or \$4,458.

²⁰ Part of the increase beginning in 2010-2011 in the number of students eligible to receive Nebraska Opportunity Grants is likely due to the expansion of Pell Grant eligibility.

Figure 1.5.3

Number of Students Eligible to Receive Nebraska Opportunity Grants Compared to the Number of Students Awarded a Nebraska Opportunity Grant 2008-2009 through 2018-2019



Data source: Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, *Nebraska Opportunity Grant Year-End Report*, 2019.

Other Evidence of Unmet Need for Financial Aid

Although state funding of financial aid has increased significantly since 2008-2009, there is a substantial amount of unmet financial need in Nebraska, including the need not met by state grants. The Commission estimates the annual unmet financial need of all Nebraskans who are eligible for Pell Grants by subtracting the total amount of financial aid, excluding work-study or PLUS (parent loan for undergraduate students), from the total cost of attending Nebraska colleges and universities for all Pell-Grant-eligible students.²¹ Using this formula, which includes subsidized and unsubsidized loans as financial aid, the Commission estimates the unmet need of Nebraskans was nearly \$152 million in 2008-2009 and over \$206 million in 2018-2019, as a result of the significant increase in the number of Nebraskans eligible for financial aid.²²

An indicator of the increased difficulty in meeting the financial needs of students is that students and their families are covering an increasing percentage of the costs of education for all sectors of Nebraska's public postsecondary institutions. For details, see page 7 of the Commission's *2018 Tuition, Fees, and College Affordability Report*.

As illustrated in Figure 1.5.4, the amount students borrowed to attend Nebraska's public postsecondary institutions declined 3.6%, from \$314,781,652 in 2008-2009 to \$303,460,634 in 2018-2019.²³ The number of loan recipients decreased 18.3%, from 65,647 in 2008-2009 to 53,666 in 2018-2019, while the number of originated loans decreased 18.5%, from 74,772 to 60,909 in 2018-2019.

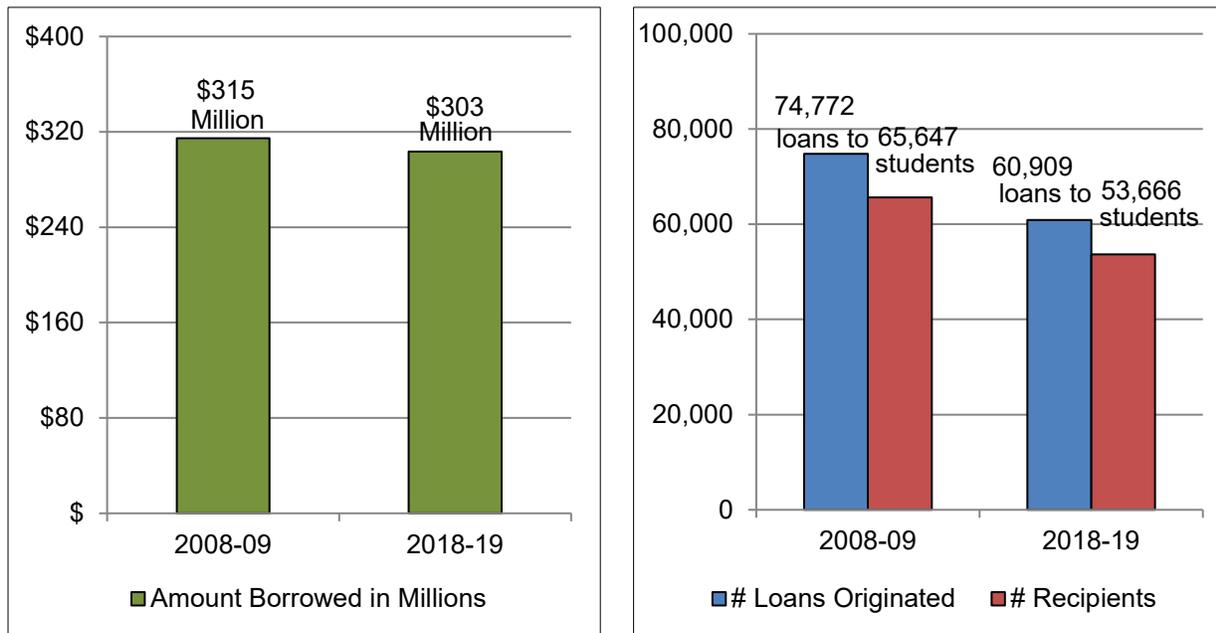
²¹ Cost of attendance includes tuition and mandatory fees, room and board, and books and supplies.

²² For details regarding these estimates, see the Commission's *2018 Tuition, Fees, and College Affordability Report*, available on the Commission's website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports.

²³ Originated loans, including fees.

Figure 1.5.4

**Level of Student Borrowing to Attend Nebraska’s Public Colleges and Universities
2018-2019 Compared to 2008-2009**



Note. Includes undergraduate and graduate loans. Data source: Common Origination and Disbursement System, U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid, July 2019.

Need-Based Financial Aid

In addition to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant, financial aid is provided through a system of tuition waivers at Nebraska public institutions. However, tuition waivers may or may not be need-based, depending on how each institution decides to allocate them.

The State of Nebraska also funds the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program. Initiated in fall 2007, ACE scholarships are awarded to eligible low-income Nebraska high school students who take college courses for credit from qualified postsecondary institutions.

Since Nebraska’s state grant program has been the primary source of state-funded, need-based financial aid for Nebraska residents who are attending postsecondary institutions within the state, the analysis in this section focuses primarily on the changes in the funding of Nebraska’s state grant program that occurred between 2008-2009 and 2018-2019. In the analysis of the Nebraska’s state grant program, other sources of need-based aid also are discussed to present a complete picture of the amount of financial aid available to Nebraskans. The last part of this section focuses on the growth of the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program and the college continuation rates of ACE scholarship recipients.

Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program and Other Sources of Title IV Financial Aid

The Nebraska Opportunity Grant program was one of several programs based on or administered under the guidelines of Title IV of the U.S. Higher Education Act between 2008-2009 and 2018-2019. These programs provide financial aid to students attending postsecondary institutions in Nebraska and include the following federal programs (see [Explanatory Note A8.1](#) in [Appendix 8](#) for descriptions of all of the financial aid programs listed below):

- Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)
- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)
- National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant
- Perkins Loans
- PLUS Loans
- PLUS Loans for Graduate and Professional Degree Students (Grad PLUS)
- Subsidized (Sub) and Unsubsidized (Unsub) Stafford Loans
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)

Federal Pell Grants are awarded to undergraduates who have not yet earned bachelor's degrees and who demonstrate high financial need. Nebraska state grants are awarded to Nebraska-resident students who demonstrate high financial need and attend eligible Nebraska postsecondary institutions.

Nebraska Opportunity Grants as a Percentage of All Title IV Financial Aid

Between 2008-2009 and 2017-2018, Nebraska's Opportunity Grants represented only a small percentage of the total Title IV financial aid awarded through all of the eligible postsecondary institutions in Nebraska. [Table 1.5.1](#) compares the total amount of financial aid awarded to students attending Nebraska colleges and universities in 2017-2018, the latest year for which federal data for all Nebraska institutions are available, to financial aid awarded in 2008-2009.²⁴

- A total of \$764,938,806 Title IV financial aid was awarded to students at Nebraska's postsecondary institutions in 2017-2018, an increase of 16.9% from 2008-2009.
- Nebraska's state grants were equivalent to 2.3% of the total Title IV financial aid awarded to students attending Nebraska postsecondary institutions in 2017-2018, up from 1.9% in 2008-2009.

²⁴ The interest on a Perkins Loan or a subsidized loan is paid by the federal government while the student borrower is in college. Therefore, this interest is comparable to a grant in the sense that it does not have to be repaid. For the sake of clarification, the amounts reported in this section are for the actual amounts borrowed, *not including interest*.

Table 1.5.1
Total Title IV Federal and State Financial Aid
Awarded at All Eligible Nebraska Postsecondary Institutions
2017-2018 Compared to 2008-2009

Type of Financial Aid Awarded	2008-2009		2017-2018		% Change
	\$ Awarded	% of Total	\$ Awarded	% of Total	
Grants					
Pell Grant	\$81,130,049	12.4%	\$133,106,309	17.4%	64.1%
FSEOG	\$5,687,074	0.9%	\$5,904,128	0.8%	3.8%
IASG	\$0	0.0%	\$1,382	0.0%	
TEACH	\$515,885	0.1%	\$900,794	0.1%	74.6%
NOG	\$12,611,384	1.9%	\$17,392,498	2.3%	37.9%
FED Work-Study	\$5,694,774	0.9%	\$5,816,508	0.8%	2.1%
Loans					
Perkins Loans	\$9,282,283	1.4%	\$7,759,547	1.0%	-16.4%
Sub Loans	\$193,007,344	29.5%	\$128,175,986	16.8%	-33.6%
Unsub Loans	\$262,745,481	40.1%	\$318,228,299	41.6%	21.1%
Grad PLUS	\$30,791,018	4.7%	\$60,749,050	7.9%	97.3%
PLUS Loans	\$53,127,748	8.1%	\$86,904,305	11.4%	63.6%
Total Grants and Loans	\$654,593,040	100.0%	\$764,938,806	100.0%	16.9%
<p><i>Note.</i> FSEOG = Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant; IASG = Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant; TEACH = Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants; NOG = Nebraska Opportunity Grant; Sub = subsidized loans; Unsub Loans = unsubsidized loans. IASG grants were not available in 2008-2009. See Explanatory Note A8.1 in Appendix 8 for information about each of the programs included in this analysis. Data sources: Common Origination and Disbursement System, U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid, July 2019, supplemented with CCPE records, December 2019.</p>					

Nebraska Opportunity Grants as a Percentage of Title IV Financial Aid Awarded at Nebraska Public Institutions

- The amounts of federal funding for all types of Title IV financial aid that were awarded to students at all of Nebraska’s eligible postsecondary institutions in 2018-2019 are not yet available. However, the amount of aid awarded through each Title IV program to students attending the state’s *public* institutions in 2018-2019 is available to compare to the amount awarded in 2008-2009.
- A total of \$426,389,106 Title IV financial aid was awarded to students at Nebraska’s *public* postsecondary institutions in 2018-2019, an increase of \$59,535,875 (16.2%) from 2008-2009.
- As shown in [Table 1.5.2](#), Nebraska state grants accounted for 3.3% of the total financial aid awarded by Nebraska’s public institutions in 2018-2019, up from 2.2% in 2008-2009.

Table 1.5.2
Total Title IV Federal and State Financial Aid
Awarded at Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions
2018-2019 Compared to 2008-2009

Type of Financial Aid Awarded	2008-2009		2018-2019		% Change
	\$ Awarded	% of Total	\$ Awarded	% of Total	
Grants					
Pell Grant	\$59,665,932	16.3%	\$101,692,520	23.8%	70.4%
FSEOG	\$2,563,448	0.7%	\$3,301,540	0.8%	28.8%
IASG	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	
TEACH	\$222,000	0.1%	\$454,136	0.1%	104.6%
NOG	\$7,924,272	2.2%	\$13,914,941	3.3%	75.6%
FED Work-Study	\$3,450,979	0.9%	\$3,565,335	0.8%	3.3%
Loans					
Perkins Loans	\$3,681,978	1.0%	\$0	0.0%	-100.0%
Sub Loans	\$111,436,832	30.4%	\$74,715,787	17.5%	-33.0%
Unsub Loans	\$141,331,207	38.5%	\$157,294,612	36.9%	11.3%
Grad PLUS	\$3,569,555	1.0%	\$16,726,681	3.9%	368.6%
PLUS Loans	\$33,007,028	9.0%	\$54,723,554	12.8%	65.8%
Total Grants and Loans	\$366,853,231	100.0%	\$426,389,106	100.0%	16.2%
<p><i>Note.</i> FSEOG = Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant; IASG = Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant; TEACH = Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants; NOG = Nebraska Opportunity Grant; Sub = subsidized loans; Unsub Loans = unsubsidized loans. IASG grants were not available in 2008-2009. Perkins Loans were last disbursed in 2017-2018. See Explanatory Note A8.1 in Appendix 8 for information about each of the programs included in this analysis. Data sources: Common Origination and Disbursement System, U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid, July 2019, supplemented with CCPE records, December 2019.</p>					

Need-Based Financial Aid (Excluding Loans) Awarded at Nebraska's Public Institutions

Title IV Aid (Excluding Loans):

- As shown in [Table 1.5.3](#), of the \$122,932,572 awarded through grants or the work-study program in 2018-2019, 11.3% was awarded through the Nebraska state grant program, compared to 10.7% in 2008-2009.
- Between 2008-2009 and 2018-2019, state funding of state grants increased by 82.7%, from \$7,616,817 to \$13,919,041.
- State funds accounted for 100% of the \$13,919,041 awarded in state grants to students enrolled at public institutions in 2018-2019. Since 2011-2012, no federal funds have been available for funding the state grant program.
- Total federal funding of grants and work-study increased by 65.4%, from \$65,902,359 in 2008-2009 to \$109,013,531 in 2018-2019.

Table 1.5.3
Total Need-Based Financial Aid (Excluding Loans)
Awarded at Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions
2018-2019 Compared to 2008-2009

Type of Need-Based Financial Aid	2008-2009		2018-2019		% Change
	\$ Awarded	% of Total	\$ Awarded	% of Total	
Title IV Aid (Excluding Loans)					
Nebraska Opportunity Grants					
State-Funded	\$7,616,817	8.1%	\$13,919,041	8.3%	82.7%
Federal-Funded	\$307,455	0.3%	\$0	0.0%	-100.0%
Total NE State Grant	\$7,924,272	8.4%	\$13,919,041	8.3%	75.7%
Federal Title IV					
Pell Grant	\$59,665,932	63.6%	\$101,692,520	60.8%	70.4%
FSEOG	\$2,563,448	2.7%	\$3,301,540	2.0%	28.8%
IASG	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	
TEACH	\$222,000	0.2%	\$454,136	0.3%	104.6%
Federal Work Study	\$3,450,979	3.7%	\$3,565,335	2.1%	3.3%
Total Federal Title IV	\$65,902,359	70.2%	\$109,013,531	65.2%	65.4%
Total Title IV Aid (Excluding Loans)	\$73,826,631	78.7%	\$122,932,572	73.5%	66.5%
Other Need-Based Aid (Excluding Loans)					
University of Nebraska	\$16,262,327	17.3%	\$36,842,601	22.0%	126.6%
NE State College System	\$448,036	0.5%	\$2,168,120	1.3%	383.9%
NE Community Colleges ^a	\$3,283,722	3.5%	\$5,370,865	3.2%	63.6%
Total Other Need-Based Aid (Excluding Loans)	\$19,994,085	21.3%	\$44,381,586	26.5%	122.0%
Total Need-Based Aid (Excluding Loans)	\$93,820,716	100.0%	\$167,314,158	100.0%	78.3%

Note. FSEOG = Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant; IASG = Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant; TEACH = Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants. IASG grants were not available in 2008-2009. See [Explanatory Note A8.1](#) in [Appendix 8](#) for information about each of the programs included in this analysis. Data sources: Common Origination and Disbursement System, U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid, July 2019, supplemented with CCPE records, December 2019.

^aThe 2008-2009 other need-based aid for Nebraska's community colleges does not include aid awarded by Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) as no data was reported by the college. In 2007-2008, WNCC accounted for 13% of the other need-based aid reported by the six community colleges.

Other Need-Based Aid (Excluding Loans):

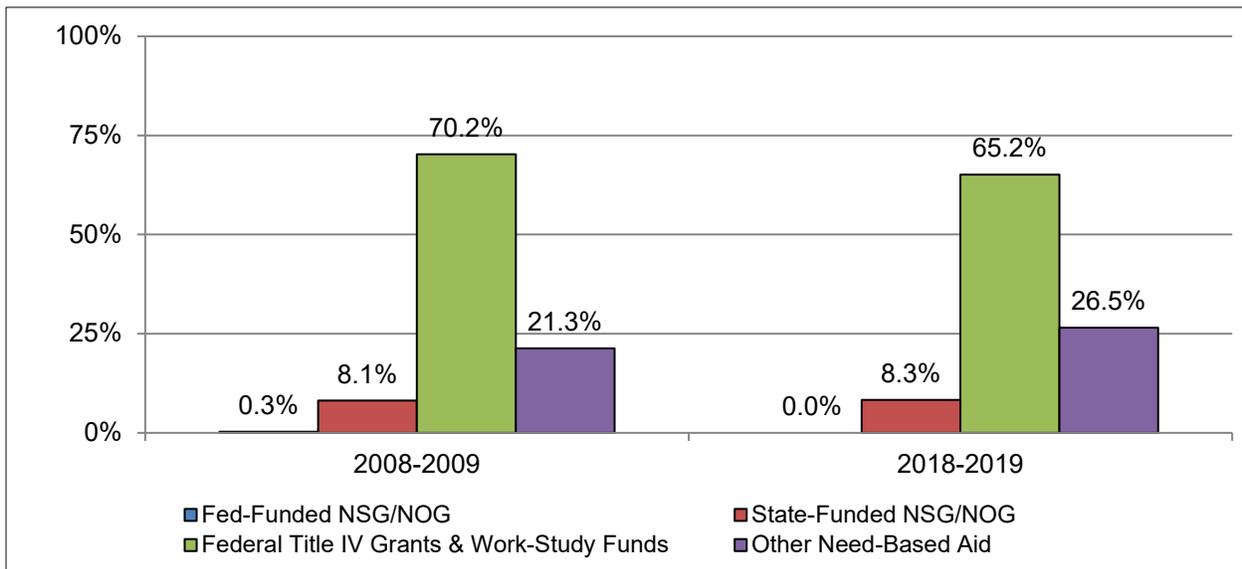
Although Title IV-related programs are the primary source of need-based financial aid, other institution-based programs are available to assist students. Programs available through the state’s public institutions are funded by the institutions and private sources.

- As shown in [Table 1.5.4](#), the total amount of need-based financial aid, not including Title IV aid, provided to students by Nebraska’s public institutions increased 122.0% from \$19,994,085 in 2008-2009 to \$44,381,586 in 2018-2019.
- Between 2008-2009 and 2018-2019, the amount of other need-based aid provided by the University of Nebraska increased 126.6%, while the amount of other need-based aid provided by the Nebraska State College System increased 383.9%. Meanwhile, the amount of other need-based aid awarded by Nebraska’s six community colleges increased 63.6%.

Total Need-Based Aid (Excluding Loans):

- The total amount of need-based financial aid provided to students attending Nebraska’s public institutions, including Title IV programs and other need-based aid, but excluding loans, increased 78.3% from \$93,820,716 in 2008-2009 to \$167,314,158 in 2018-2019.
- As illustrated in [Figure 1.5.5](#), the state-funded portion of the Nebraska state grants program accounted for 8.1% of all of the need-based aid awarded by Nebraska public institutions in 2008-2009, excluding loans, compared to 8.3% in 2018-2019.

Figure 1.5.5
Total Need-Based Financial Aid (Excluding Loans)
Awarded by Nebraska Public Postsecondary Institutions
2018-2019 Compared to 2008-2009



Note. Data sources: Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, *2018 Tuition, Fees, and College Affordability Report*, supplemented with CCPE records, December 2019.

Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program

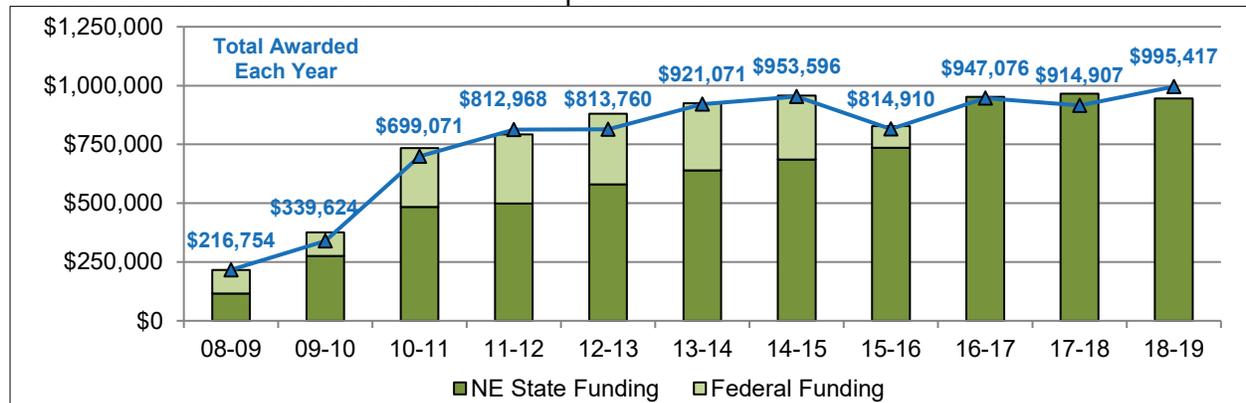
Started in fall 2007, the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program awards scholarships to eligible low-income Nebraska high school students who take courses for credit from postsecondary institutions while the students are in high school. These courses are typically dual enrollment courses, which are offered for both high school and college credit, but some are college courses offered only for college credit.²⁵ [Figure 1.5.6](#) illustrates the growth of the ACE Scholarship Program.

- In 2008-2009, 825 ACE scholarships totaling \$216,754 were awarded to 643 Nebraska high school students from 135 high schools. These students registered for 3,050 credit hours at 13 Nebraska colleges and universities.

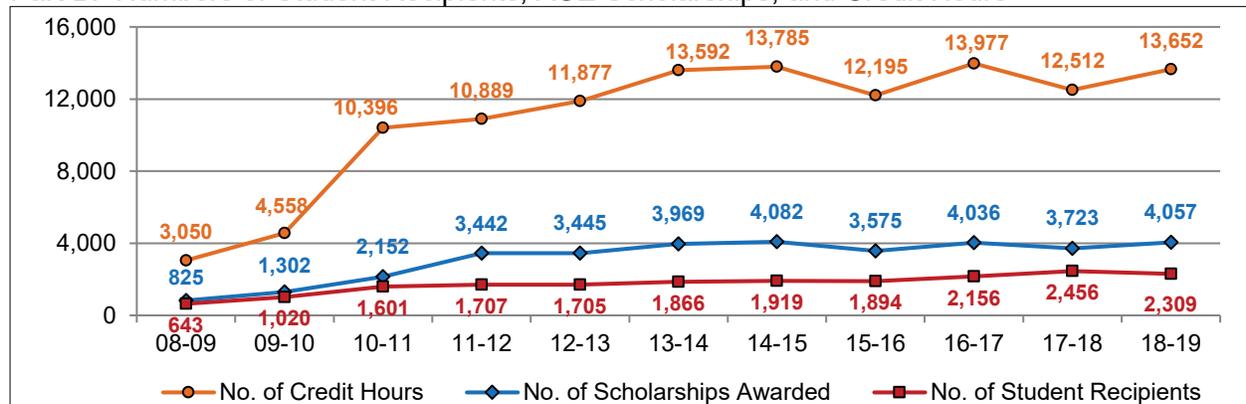
Figure 1.5.6

Growth of the Nebraska Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program 2008-2009 through 2018-2019

Part A: Sources and Amount of Scholarships Awarded



Part B: Numbers of Student Recipients, ACE Scholarships, and Credit Hours



Note. In academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, scholarships were limited to funding only one course per term per eligible student, so that a student could receive scholarships for a maximum of two or three courses during the school year, depending on whether courses were taken on a semester or quarter basis. In 2010-2011 through 2014-2015, eligible students were allowed to apply for scholarships for as many courses as they wanted to take. In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, eligible students were limited to two courses per term. For 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, eligible students were limited to two courses per year. See [Table A8.3 in Appendix 8](#) for supporting data. Data source: Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, December 2019.

²⁵ For more information on the Access College Early Scholarship, see the *Access College Early Scholarship 2018-19 Year-End Report*, available on the Commission's website at ccpe.nebraska.gov/reports.

- In 2018-2019, 4,057 ACE scholarships totaling \$995,417 were awarded to 2,309 Nebraska high school students from 223 high schools. These students registered for 13,652 credit hours at 17 Nebraska colleges and universities. A total of \$1,100,000 is appropriated for ACE scholarships for 2019-2020.

College Continuation Rates of ACE Scholarship Recipients

Since 2009, the Coordinating Commission has conducted research to determine how many of the public high school seniors who receive ACE scholarships continue on to college compared to other low-income and non-low-income graduates of Nebraska's public high schools.

For this research, a college continuation rate is defined as the percentage of public high school graduates who were enrolled in college within one year of their high school graduation. For example, for the public high school seniors who received ACE scholarships during 2017-2018, the college continuation rate is the percentage of these students who were enrolled in college any time between June 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019. Throughout this summary, the terms college continuation rate and college-going rate are used interchangeably.

Using student records and summary reports from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), the Commission calculates the college continuation rates by gender for the public high school seniors who were ACE scholarship recipients.

The Commission then compares the college continuation rates for the seniors who received ACE scholarships while attending public high schools to the college continuation rates for other low-income and non-low-income graduates of Nebraska's public high schools.

Low-income students are defined as students who are approved to receive free or reduced-price school lunches.

Non-low-income students are students who are not approved for free or reduced-price school lunches.²⁶

Since the Commission relies on college enrollment records from the NSC, students who continue on to college at non-NSC-reporting institutions are classified as not continuing on to college. As a result, college continuation rates reported here are underestimated to some degree. (See Section 1.1.c of this report for further information on college continuation rates.)

Students who were home-schooled or attended nonpublic (private) high schools are not included in this phase of the research because the NDE does not have sufficient records for the Commission to compute college continuation rates for nonpublic high school students by income status.

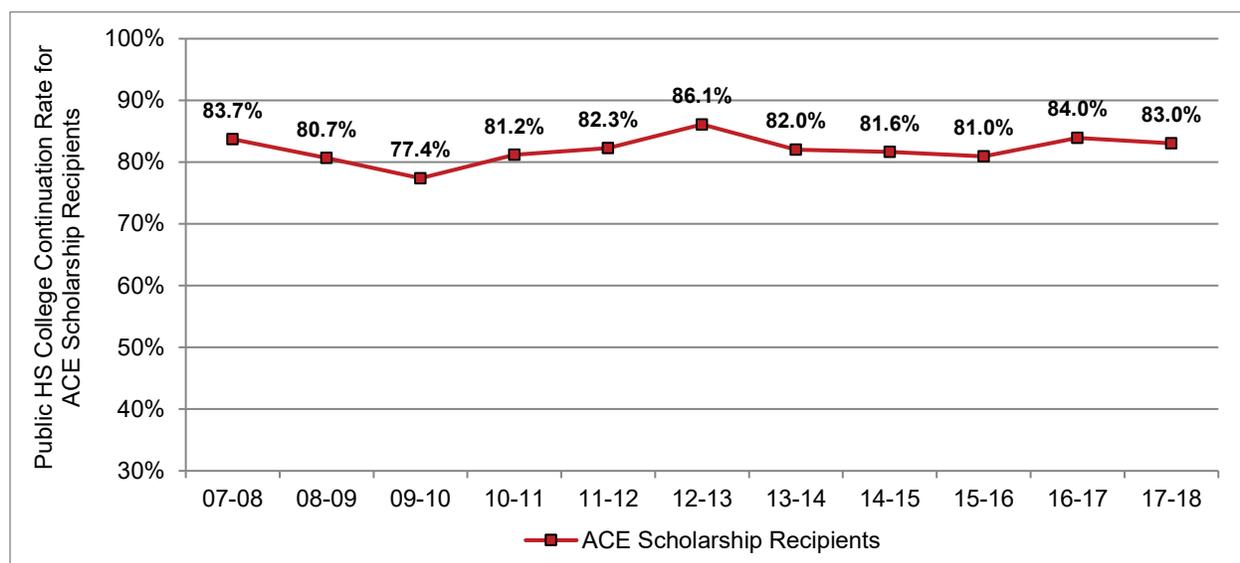
²⁶ Non-low-income students for this study include at least some students who live in low-income households but who did not apply for free or reduced-price school lunches. Since participation in the free or reduced-price school lunch program is the only indicant of household income in the student records maintained by the Nebraska Department of Education, low-income students in the non-low-income category cannot be identified and excluded for the purposes of analysis.

College Continuation Rates for Public High School Graduates Who Received ACE Scholarships

- As shown in [Section 1.1.c](#), [Figure 1.1.c.5](#), the college continuation rate for Nebraska public high school graduates has increased from 69.0% for the 2007-2008 graduating class to 70.6% for the 2017-2018 graduating class.
- From the first year of the program in 2007-2008 to the third year in 2009-2010, the college continuation rates of ACE scholarship recipients decreased as the number of awarded ACE scholarships increased. As shown in [Figure 1.5.7](#), the college continuation rate for *all public high school graduates* who received ACE scholarships during their senior year has varied by year.
- Since 2007-2008, the college-going rate for ACE scholarship recipients decreased from 83.7% to 83.0% for 2017-2018 graduates.

Figure 1.5.7

College Continuation Rates for All Public High School Graduates Who Received Access College Early (ACE) Scholarships 2007-2008 through 2017-2018



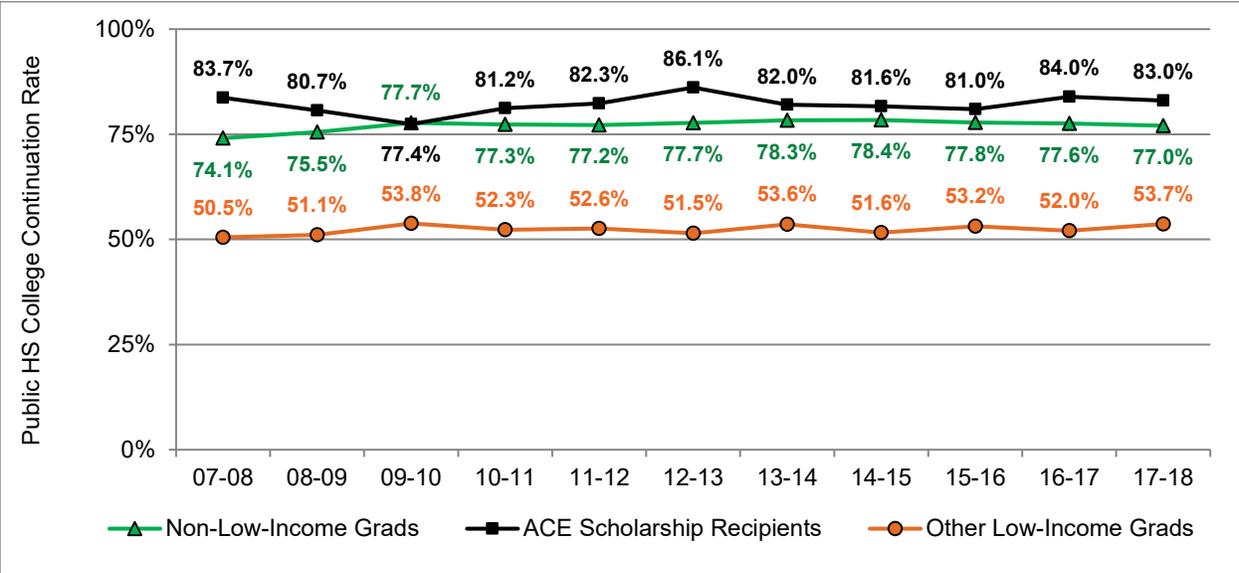
Note. See [Tables A8.4.a](#), [A8.4.b](#), [A8.4.c](#), [A8.4.d](#), [A8.4.e](#), [A8.4.f](#), [A8.4.g](#), [A8.4.h](#), [A8.4.i](#), [A8.5.a](#) and [A8.5.b](#) in [Appendix 8](#) for supporting data. Data sources: Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (numbers of ACE recipients), May 2019; National Student Clearinghouse (college continuation data), May 2019.

College Continuation Rates by Household Income

- As shown in [Figure 1.5.8](#), college continuation rates of ACE scholarship recipients have been higher than, or about equal to, the rates for non-low-income graduates of the state’s public high schools.
- College continuation rates for ACE scholarship recipients were significantly higher than the college-going rates for other low-income students who graduated from Nebraska’s public high schools between 2007-2008 and 2017-2018.

Figure 1.5.8

College Continuation Rates for Public High School Seniors Who Received Access Early (ACE) Scholarships and Other Graduates of Nebraska Public High Schools by Student Income Status: 2007-2008 through 2017-2018



Note. See [Tables A8.4.a](#), [A8.4.b](#), [A8.4.c](#), [A8.4.d](#), [A8.4.e](#), [A8.4.f](#), [A8.4.g](#), [A8.4.h](#), [A8.4.i](#), [A8.5.a](#) and [A8.5.b](#) in [Appendix 8](#) for supporting data. Data sources: Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (numbers of ACE recipients), May 2019; National Student Clearinghouse (college continuation data), May 2019; and Nebraska Department of Education (numbers of low-income and non-low-income graduates) May 2019.