

Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)

January 2017

Overview

The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) program provides financial aid to students who are residents of Nebraska, have not earned a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree, have high financial need, and who are attending eligible Nebraska colleges and universities to earn a degree or credential. NOG is the State of Nebraska's only need-based financial aid program for postsecondary students.

By the Numbers (2015-16)

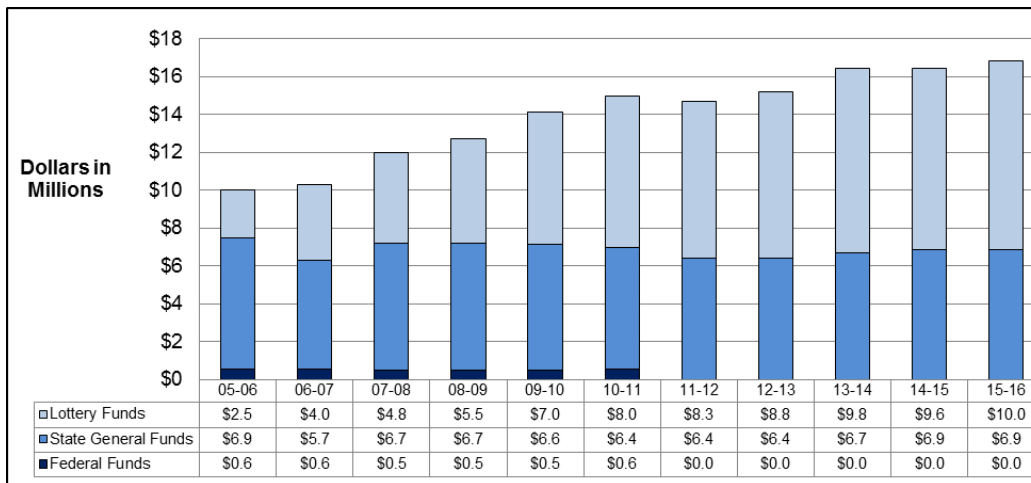
Amount awarded: \$16,833,918

Recipients: 13,739

Recipients by sector: 33% - Community colleges; 24% - University of Nebraska; 21% - Independents; 9% - Private career schools; 8% - State Colleges

Average grant: \$1,225.27

NOG recipients by income level: 41.6% - \$19,999 or less; 30.1% - \$20,000-\$39,999; 29.7% - \$40,000+

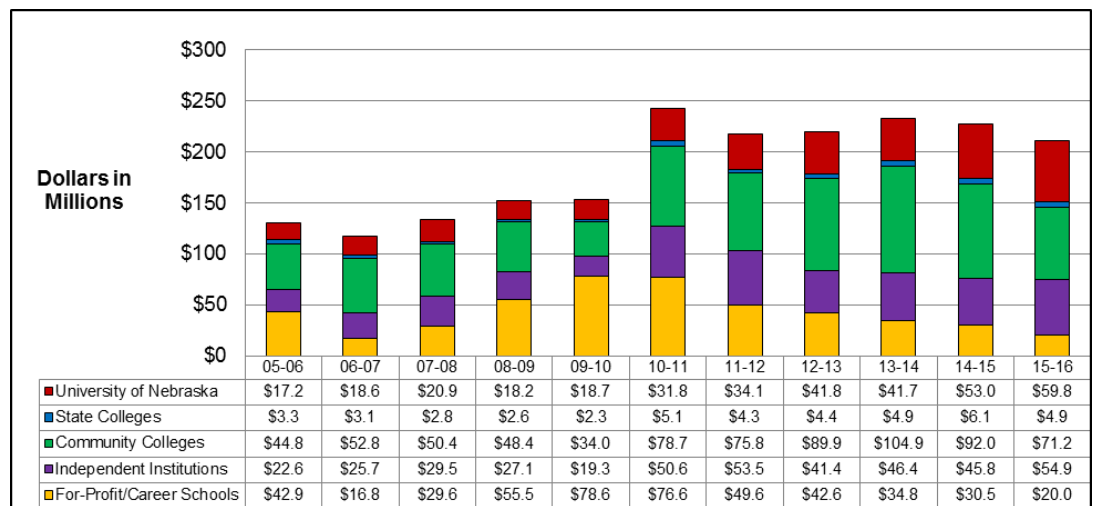


Funding

NOG is funded through General fund appropriations and lottery funds. As you can see on the chart to the left, General funds have remained stagnant since 2007-08. The only increase in NOG funding has come from lottery funds. Student need has continued to increase at a rate that outpaces any increase in funding.

Unmet financial need

Nearly 14,000 students received NOG awards in 2015-16 — but roughly 30,000 students qualified for grants and did not receive them due to a lack of NOG funds. The chart to the right illustrates the unmet financial need of



Nebraska students who qualified for Pell grants. A lack of State-sponsored financial aid is a contributing factor to this — Nebraska ranks 34th in the country in the amount of State-provided need-based financial aid.