



# **NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT 2023-24 YEAR-END REPORT**

**September 13, 2024**

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# NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

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 (defined as having an expected family contribution equal to or less than 110% of the maximum family contribution that qualifies students for a federal Pell Grant); and who are attending eligible Nebraska colleges and universities to earn a degree or credential. The NOG program uses information from the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as the basis for determining eligibility; there is no separate application.

NOG is the State of Nebraska's only need-based financial aid program for postsecondary students and is funded through General fund appropriations and lottery funds. As of the 2021-22 academic year, when analyzing national need-based undergraduate grant dollars per undergraduate enrollment, Nebraska ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in the country, one spot lower than our ranking from 2020-21.

The NOG program is a decentralized financial aid program. The commission allocates state funding to participating institutions based on a statutory formula that takes into account the proportion of all eligible students attending each institution and their tuition and fees (capped at tuition and fees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and verifies student eligibility but does not determine individual student award amounts or dictate how many eligible students receive NOG grants. Participating institutions award NOG grants to eligible students subject to eligibility criteria, maximum award limits, and available allocations.

For the 2023-24 NOG program award year:

- \$24,416,073 was awarded
- 13,507 students received a Nebraska Opportunity Grant
- \$1,807.66 was the average grant award

Pages 3-6 include charts showing the number of Nebraska students who received a federal Pell grant and the unmet financial need of these students as reported by the institutions. The U.S. Department of Education defines financial need as the difference between how much college costs and how much a student and the student's family can pay towards those costs. The difference between financial need and the amount of financial aid offered by the college to the student to cover the financial need is considered unmet financial need. Students must cover their unmet need from either private loans or out-of-pocket funds.

The remainder of the report reflects various details specifically related to the NOG program, broken out by sector. Of particular interest is the table on page 13 showing the percentage of eligible students that received a NOG award by sector. The table demonstrates both that the NOG program is an important part of the overall financial aid strategy of postsecondary institutions and that many eligible students are not served by the NOG program due to lack of funding.

## NOG Program Participating Institutions

### University of Nebraska

- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- University of Nebraska –Lincoln
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

### State Colleges

- Chadron State College
- Peru State College
- Wayne State College

### Community Colleges

- Central Community College
- Metropolitan Community College
- Mid-Plains Community College
- Northeast Community College
- Southeast Community College
- Western Nebraska Community College

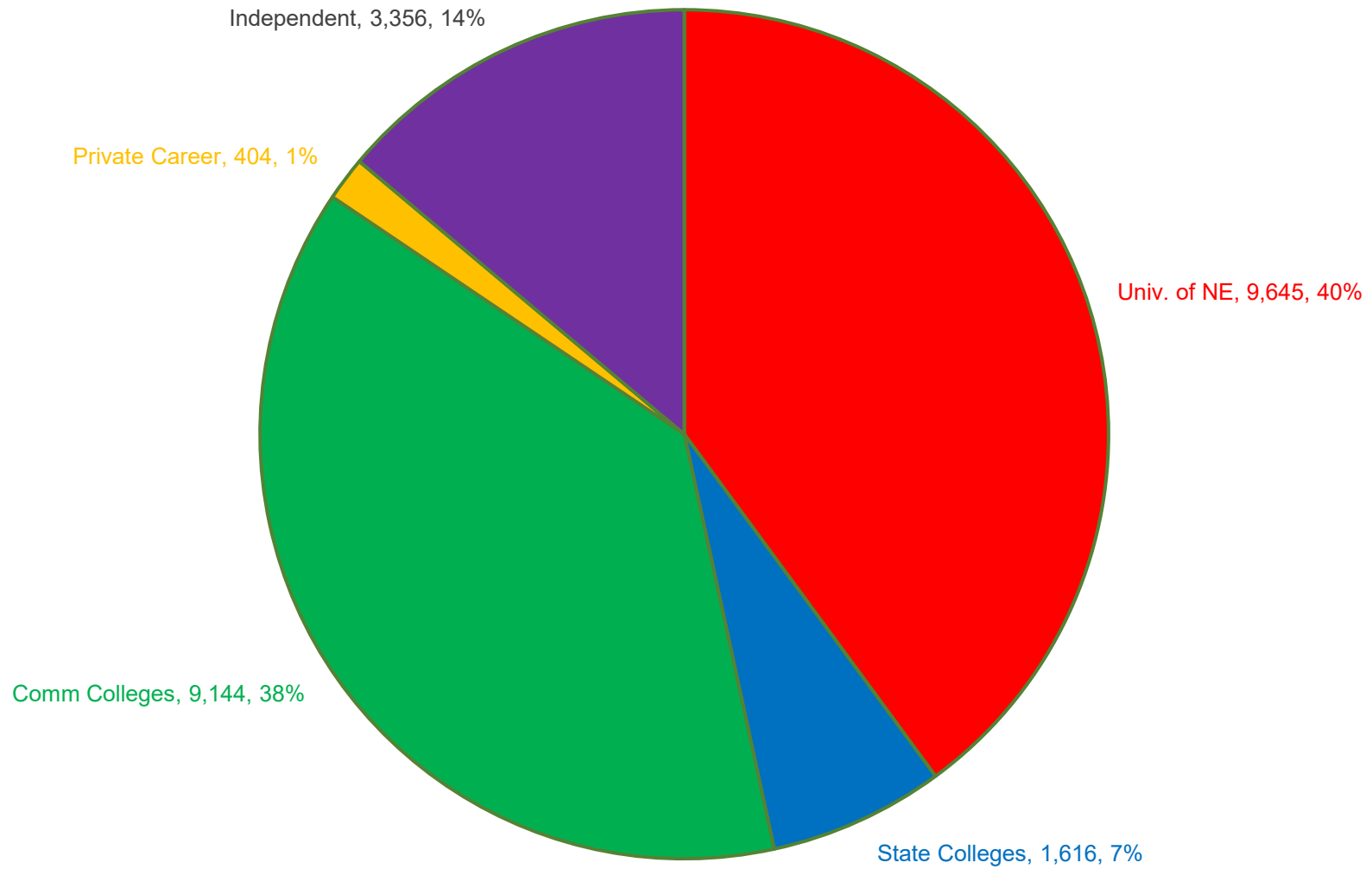
### Private Career Colleges

- Capitol Beauty School
- College of Hair Design
- Joseph's College of Beauty
- Xenon International School of Hair

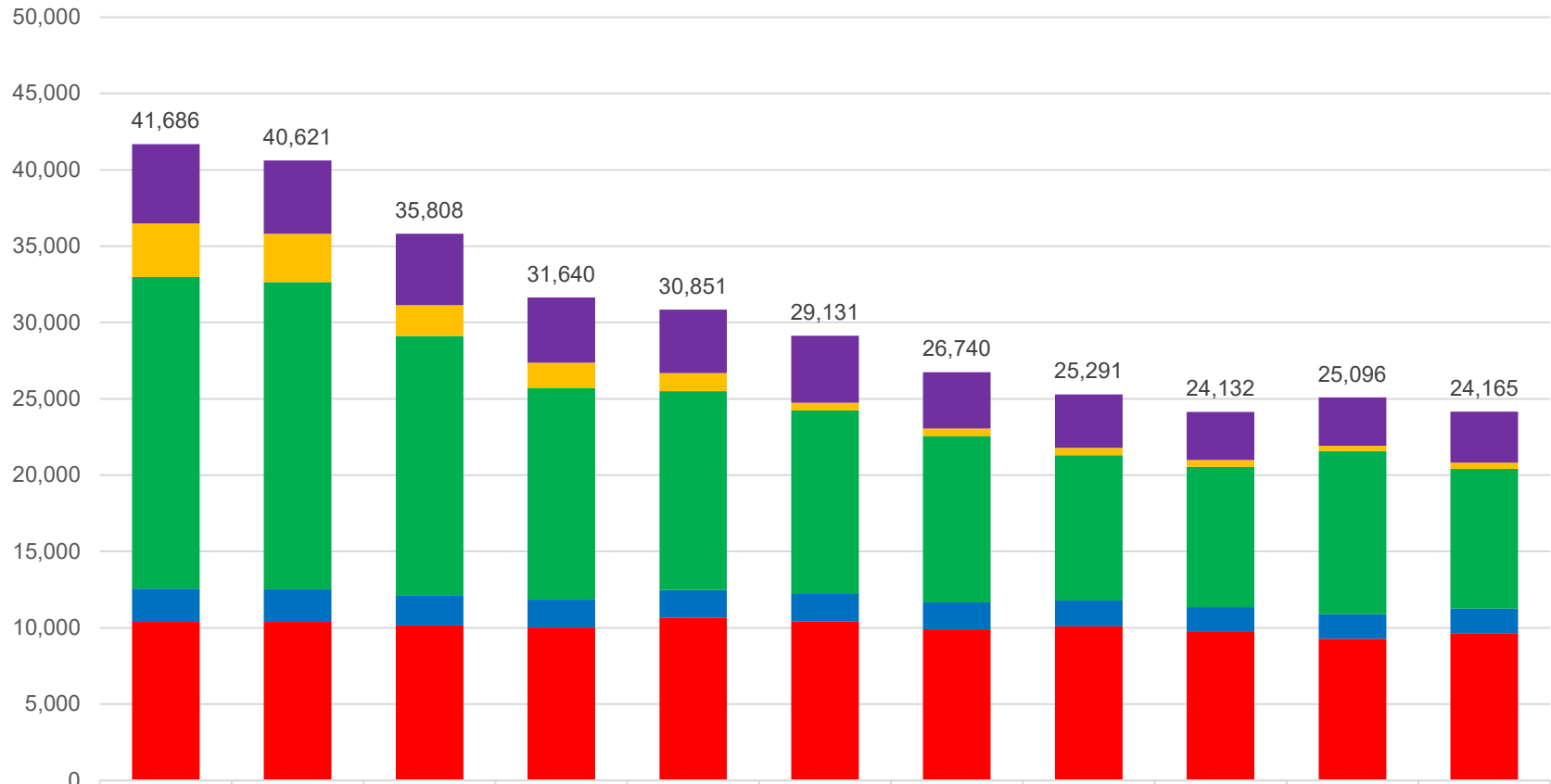
### Independent Colleges & Universities

- Bellevue University
- Bryan College of Health Science
- Clarkson College
- College of Saint Mary
- Concordia University
- Creighton University
- Doane University
- Hastings College
- Little Priest Tribal College
- Midland University
- Nebraska Indian Community College
- Nebraska Methodist College
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Union Adventist University
- Western Governors University
- York University

### 2023-24 Nebraska Resident Pell Grant-Eligible Students by Sector (percentage is of total Pell Grant-Eligible enrollment)

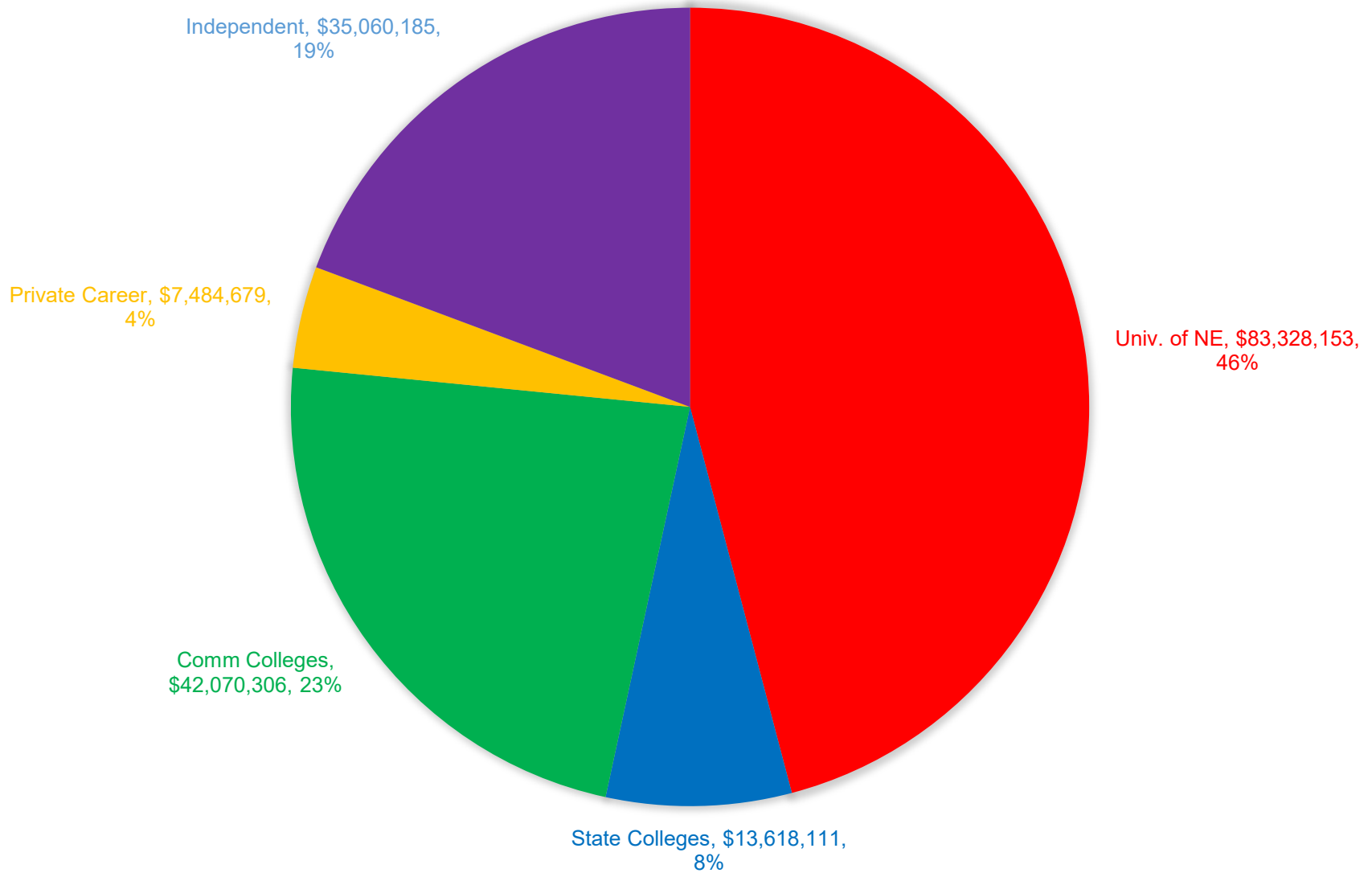


## Nebraska Resident Pell Grant-Eligible Students by Sector

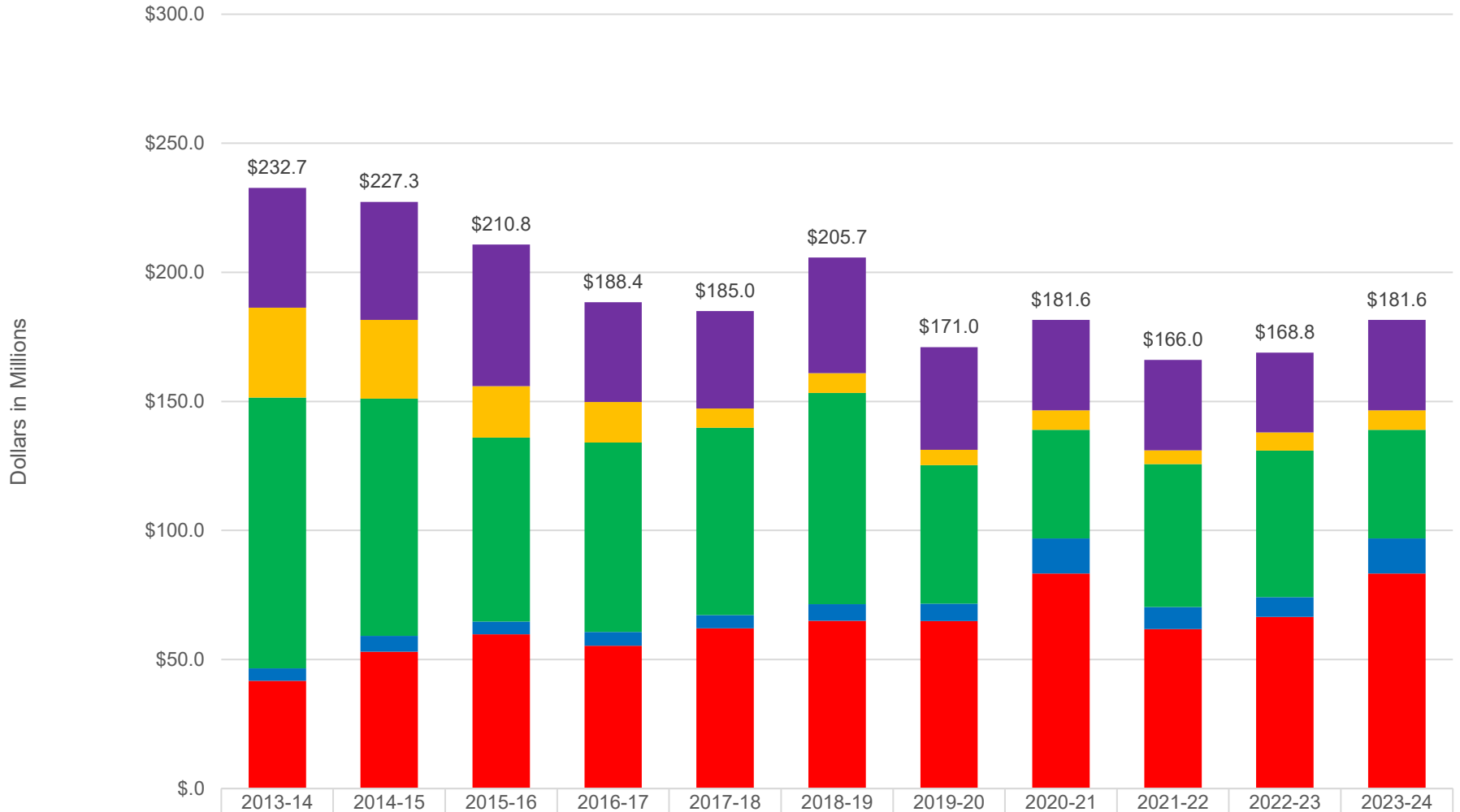


	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total	41,686	40,621	35,808	31,640	30,851	29,131	26,740	25,291	24,132	25,096	24,165
Independent	5,194	4,799	4,681	4,270	4,170	4,390	3,696	3,507	3,134	3,166	3,356
Private Career	3,504	3,168	2,009	1,674	1,174	499	480	487	459	353	404
Comm Colleges	20,433	20,132	17,019	13,861	13,032	12,021	10,894	9,504	9,175	10,694	9,144
State Colleges	2,177	2,135	1,944	1,824	1,805	1,815	1,762	1,696	1,643	1,610	1,616
Univ. of NE	10,378	10,387	10,155	10,011	10,670	10,406	9,908	10,097	9,721	9,273	9,645

**2023-24 UNMET NEED OF PELL GRANT-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS  
(PERCENTAGE IS OF TOTAL AMOUNT)**



## Nebraska Resident Pell Grant-Eligible Unmet Need by Sector



	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total	\$232.7	\$227.3	\$210.8	\$188.4	\$185.0	\$205.7	\$171.0	\$181.6	\$166.0	\$168.8	\$181.6
Independent	\$46.4	\$45.8	\$54.9	\$38.6	\$37.8	\$44.8	\$39.7	\$35.1	\$35.0	\$30.9	\$35.1
Private Career	\$34.8	\$30.5	\$20.0	\$15.8	\$7.4	\$7.7	\$6.0	\$7.5	\$5.4	\$7.0	\$7.5
Community Colleges	\$104.9	\$92.0	\$71.2	\$73.3	\$72.6	\$81.8	\$53.6	\$42.1	\$55.3	\$56.8	\$42.1
State Colleges	\$4.9	\$6.1	\$4.9	\$5.3	\$5.1	\$6.5	\$6.8	\$13.6	\$8.6	\$7.6	\$13.6
Univ. of NE	\$41.7	\$53.0	\$59.8	\$55.3	\$62.1	\$64.9	\$64.8	\$83.3	\$61.8	\$66.5	\$83.3

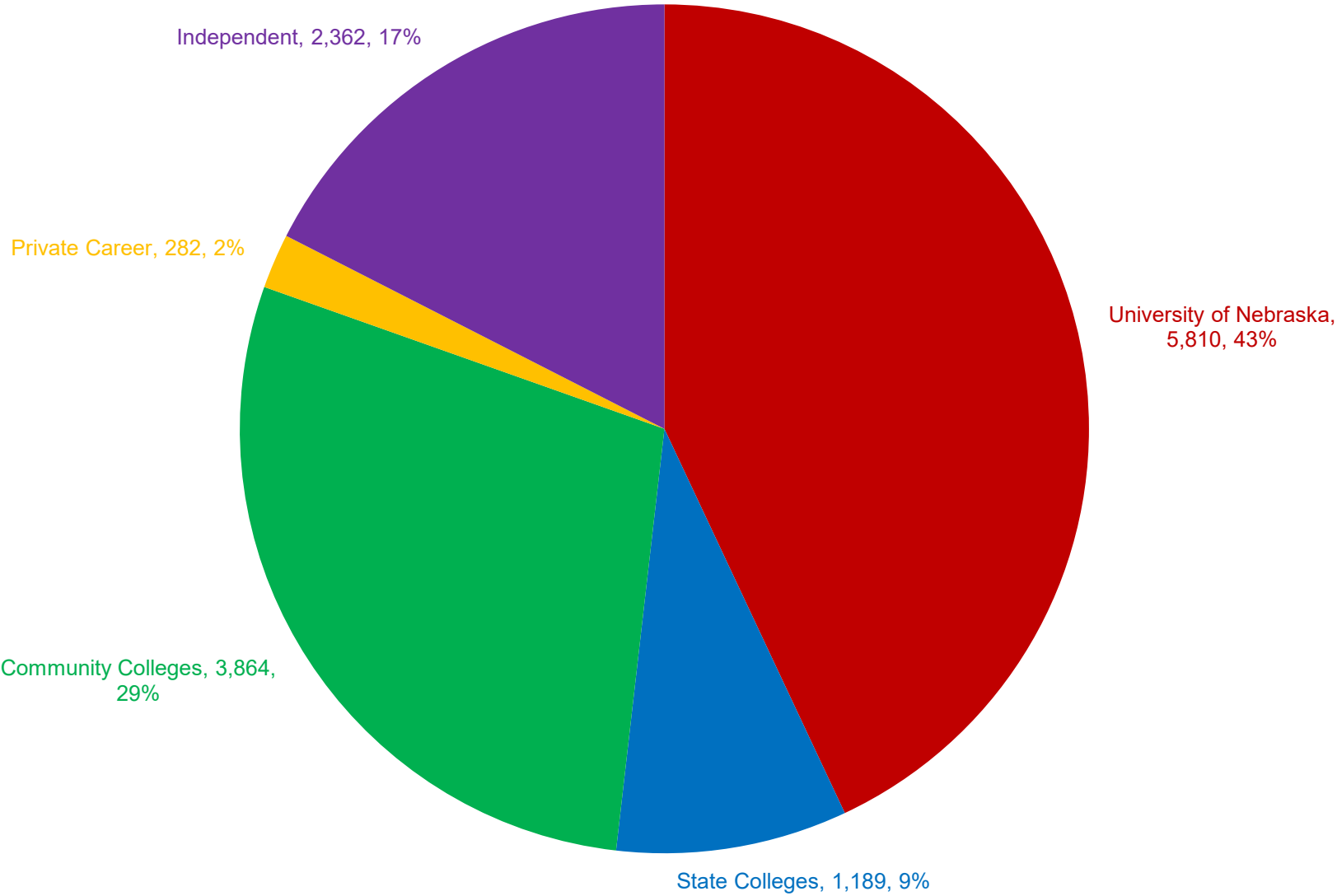


## NOG Yearly Process

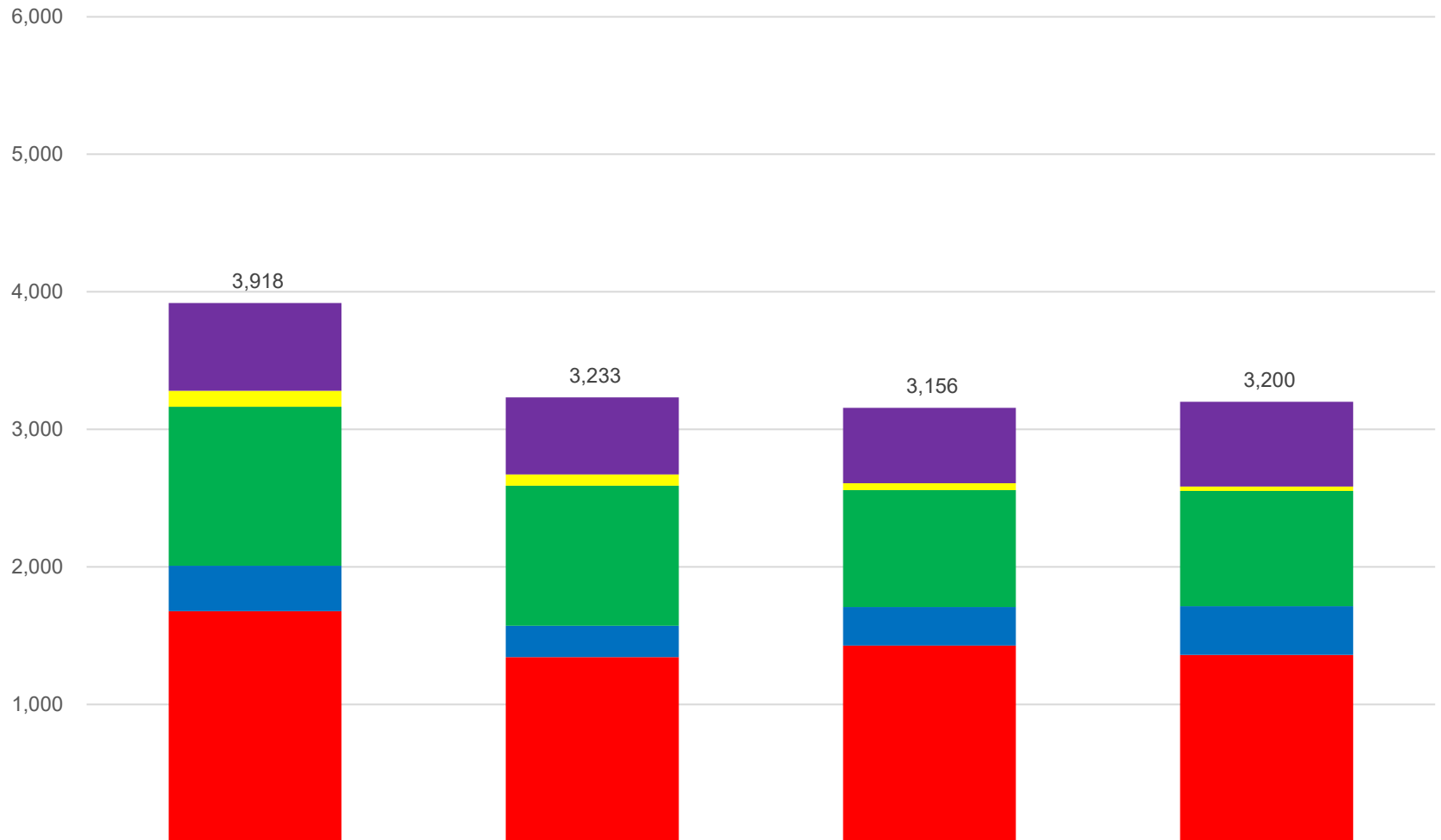
Each year the Commission allocates NOG funding that has been appropriated by the Legislature to participating institutions. In order to provide these institutions timely information, funding estimates are used until a final appropriation bill is approved in late spring. Allocations are calculated using the formula found in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-1912. Below are key events of the NOG process:

- Tentative allocation using estimated state General and lottery funds is sent out to institutions in January for the next academic year
- NOG applications to participate are sent to institutions and returned to the Commission in June
- Data from the applications, including the calculation of full-time-equivalent eligible students and tuition and fees charged, are used in the allocation formula
- Final appropriation amounts passed by Legislature and approved by Governor no later than June
- Final allocation notice sent to institutions in July
- Institutions submit a list of recommended students for Commission approval
  - Must be done prior to disbursement to student
  - Sent in multiple lists throughout the year
  - Funds sent at least twice a year based on approved list of students
  - Final submission must be submitted by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the academic year
- Commission performs audits of student eligibility at each participating institution every fall

### 2023-24 NOG Recipients by Sector

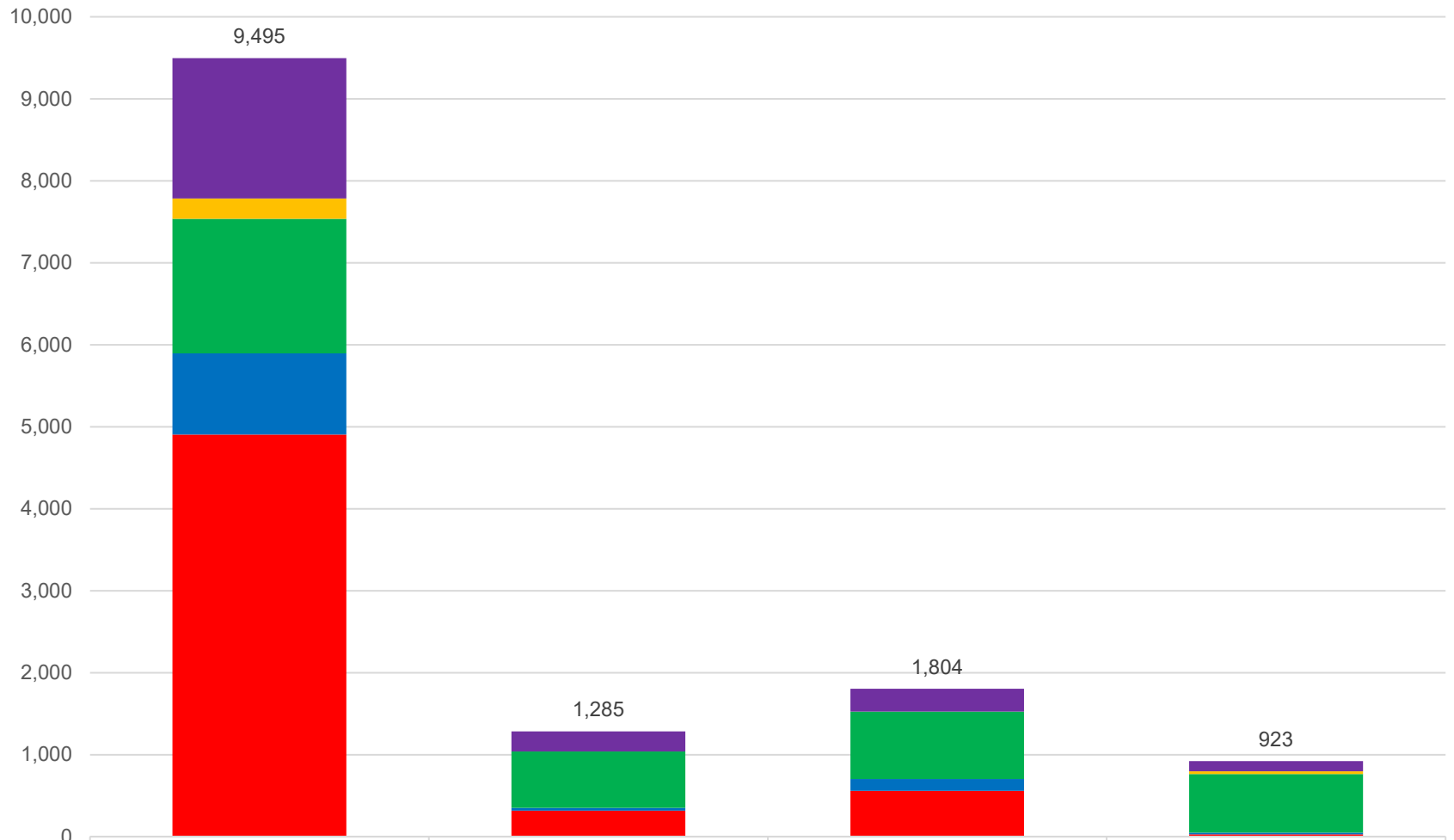


## 2023-24 NOG Recipients by Family Income



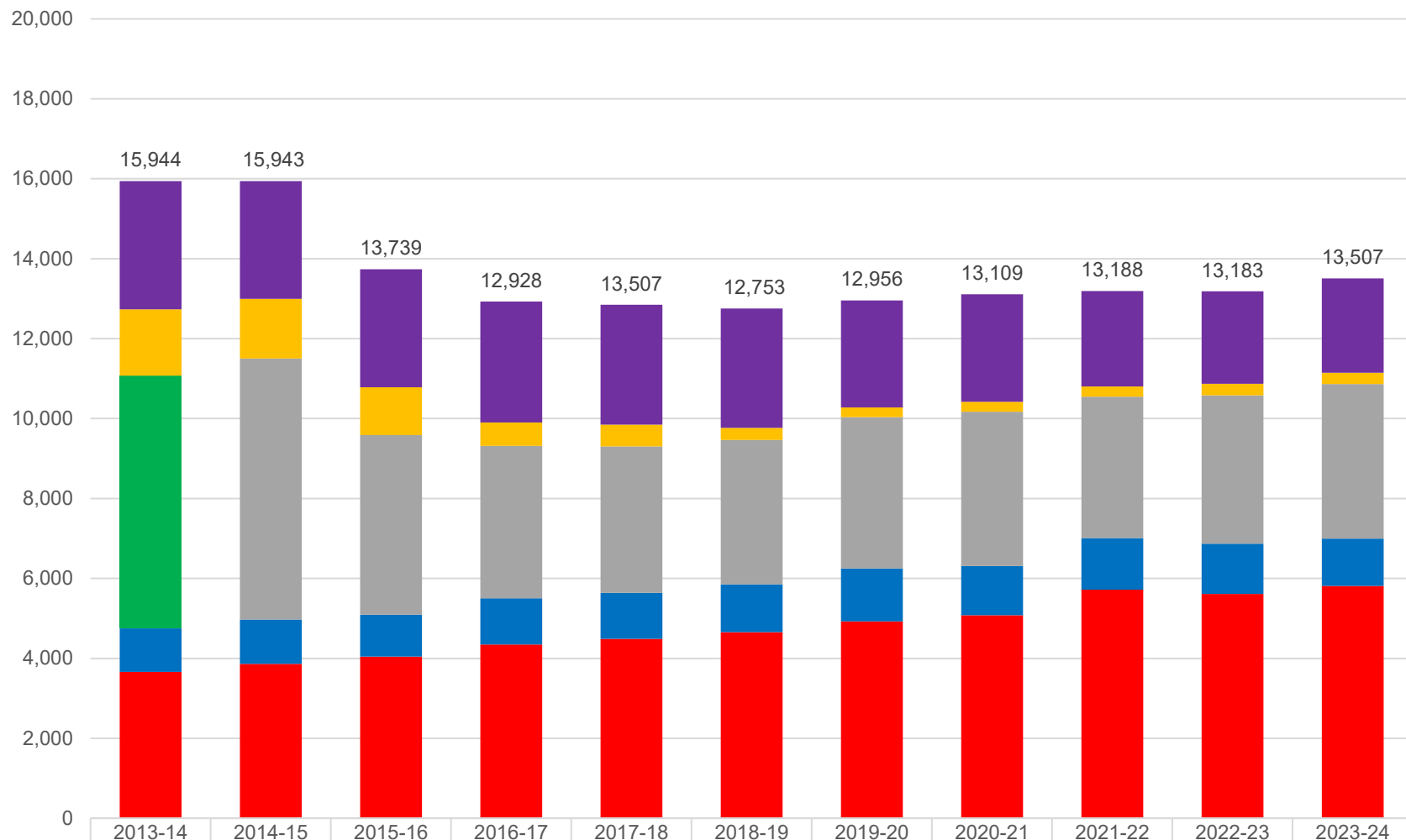
	0-\$19,999	\$20,000-\$39,999	\$40,000 - \$59,999	\$60,000+
Total	3,918	3,233	3,156	3,200
Independent	637	561	548	616
Private Career	116	82	51	33
Comm Colleges	1,157	1,019	850	838
State Colleges	330	227	279	353
Univ. of NE	1,678	1,344	1,428	1,360

### 2023-24 Recipients by Sector by Enrollment



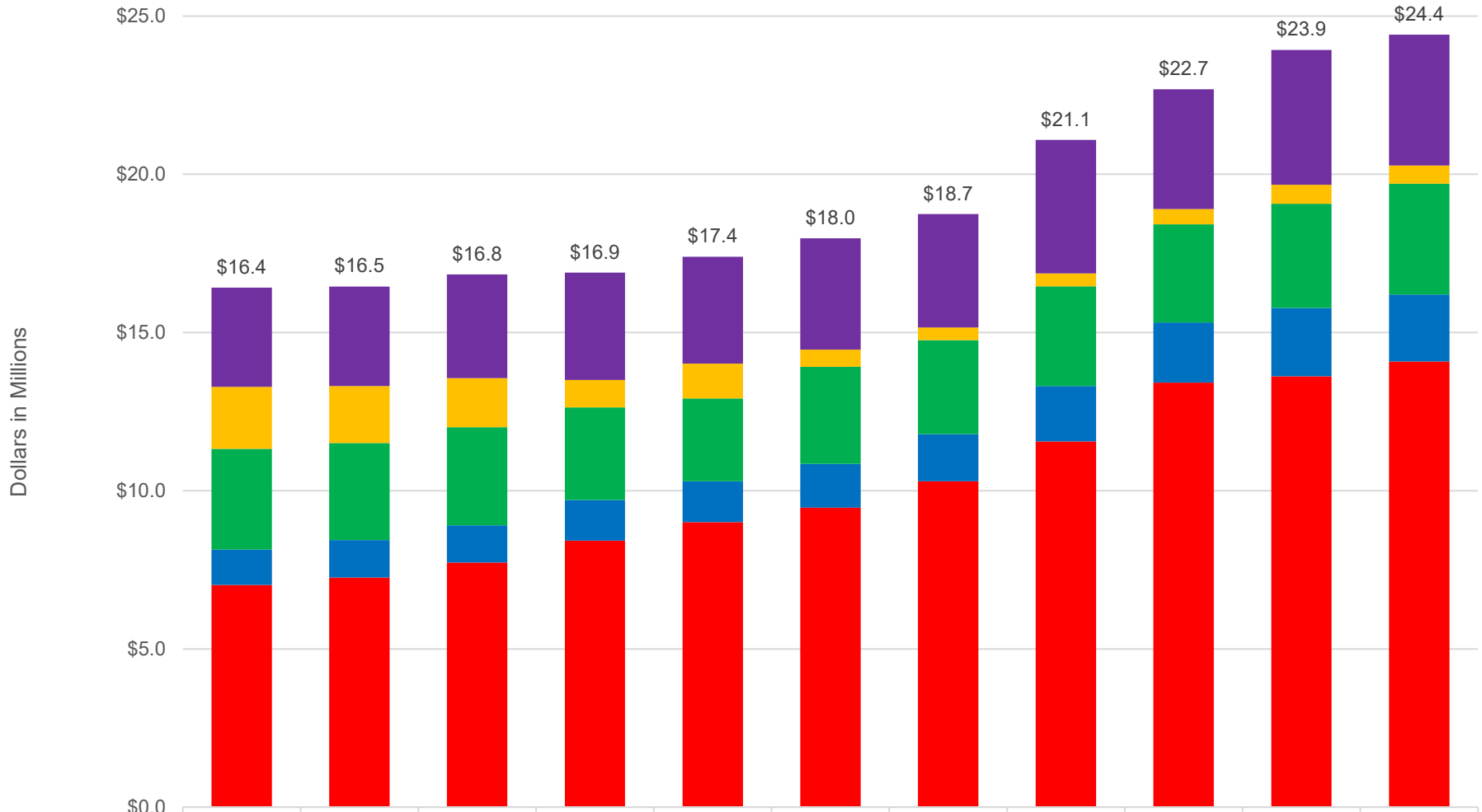
	Full-Time	3/4 Time	1/2 Time	Less Than 1/2 Time
Total	9,495	1,285	1,804	923
Independent	1,710	247	280	125
Private Career	249	0	0	33
Comm Colleges	1,641	686	820	717
State Colleges	990	36	144	19
Univ. of NE	4,905	316	560	29

## NOG Recipients by Sector



	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total	15,944	15,943	13,739	12,928	13,507	12,753	12,956	13,109	13,188	13,183	13,507
Independent	3,208	2,950	2,956	3,029	3,003	2,985	2,674	2,687	2,384	2,309	2,362
Private Career	1,664	1,489	1,195	581	542	305	246	252	256	290	282
Comm Colleges	6,320	6,530	4,492	3,814	3,663	3,607	3,784	3,857	3,537	3,713	3,864
State Colleges	1,090	1,109	1,053	1,160	1,156	1,198	1,324	1,230	1,290	1,261	1,189
Univ. of NE	3,662	3,865	4,043	4,344	4,485	4,658	4,928	5,083	5,721	5,610	5,810

## NOG Amount Awarded by Sector



	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total	\$16.4	\$16.5	\$16.8	\$16.9	\$17.4	\$18.0	\$18.7	\$21.1	\$22.7	\$23.9	\$24.4
Independent	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$3.3	\$3.4	\$3.4	\$3.5	\$3.6	\$4.2	\$3.8	\$4.3	\$4.1
Private Career	\$2.0	\$1.8	\$1.6	\$0.9	\$1.1	\$0.5	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.6	\$0.6
Comm Colleges	\$3.2	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$2.9	\$2.6	\$3.1	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$3.3	\$3.5
State Colleges	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$1.4	\$1.5	\$1.8	\$1.9	\$2.2	\$2.1
Univ. of NE	\$7.0	\$7.3	\$7.7	\$8.4	\$9.0	\$9.5	\$10.3	\$11.6	\$13.4	\$13.6	\$14.1

Sector	# and % of NOG Eligible Students	# and % of NOG Recipients	% of Elig who Received NOG	\$ and % of NOG Awarded	Average NOG Award
University of Nebraska (5)	10,808 35.3%	5,810 43.0%	53.8%	\$14,083,410 57.7%	\$2,423.99
State Colleges (3)	1,867 6.1%	1,189 8.8%	63.7%	\$2,118,600 8.7%	\$1,781.83
Community Colleges (6)	13,348 43.5%	3,864 28.6%	28.9%	\$3,498,554 14.3%	\$905.42
Private Career Schools (4)	509 1.7%	282 2.1%	55.4%	\$577,134 2.4%	\$2,046.57
Independent Colleges & Universities (16)	4,125 13.5%	2,362 17.5%	57.3%	\$4,138,376 16.9%	\$1,752.06
Total	30,657 100.0%	13,507 100.0%	44.1%	\$24,416,074 100.0%	\$1,807.66