

Appendix A: State-Reported Promise Participation and Total Grants Awarded

Figure 1 in this report shows the percentages of community college students seeking a degree or certificate who received a state promise grant, broken out by state. The data are pooled using four recent award years: 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21.

Each state's percentage is derived from the state's own reported count of promise grant recipients and the state's total degree-or-certificate-seeking community college enrollment in 2020-21 as calculated from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Where state-reported participant totals are insufficient for a program that is predominantly used by community college students, the [NASSGAP Annual Survey](#) is used.

Further information about data sources, as well as data notes, are provided below. Other state promise programs for which the annual reporting is not sufficient to calculate participation rates include the Connecticut PACT (CT), the Delaware SEED program (DE), the Indiana Workforce Ready Grant and 21st Century Scholars programs (IN), and the New York Excelsior Scholarship (NY). Other existing statewide programs that are considered to be promise programs but were not active by 2020-21 include the Kansas Promise (KS), Virginia G3 Program (VA), Longleaf Commitment Grant Program (NC), South Carolina Workforce Scholarship Program (SC), the 802 Opportunity Grant (VT), Maine's Free Community College Program (ME), and the North Star Promise (MN).

Some statewide programs that are sometimes considered promise programs include the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship (CO), the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (IA), and the Hathaway Scholarship (WY), which do not cover tuition, and MASSGrant Plus (MA), which is only a free college program for \$0 EFC students. The Louisiana TOPS program (LA) has been considered a free college program in the past, but its award amounts were decoupled from tuition in 2016. I do not include these programs in this analysis.

We are interested in the degree/certificate-seeking population, in order to exclude dual enrollment students. Enrollment data on the degree/certificate-seeking population are only available for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 releases of the IPEDS enrollment survey. For 2017-18 and 2018-19, I calculate the enrollment of undergraduate students and then multiply each state's enrollment total by the percentage of undergraduates who are degree/certificate-seeking in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 years.

Figure 10 in the report compares annual grants awarded under these promise programs with projected funding under the America's College Promise federal-state partnership. The total for each state is the sum of the required federal and state shares. For details about the methods used to develop these projections, please email Peter Granville at granville@tcf.org.

Arkansas Future Grant				
Available to community college students, some public four-year students, and some technical institute students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	467	564	543	604
Total awarded in grants	\$501,794	\$1,165,626	\$1,589,304	\$1,975,052
Data source	NASSGAP	NASSGAP	NASSGAP	NASSGAP
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	44,800	43,563	43,189	38,859
Aggregated participation rate	1.3%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$1,307,944			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$85,409,637			
Notes: Most programs that qualify for the Arkansas Future Grant are at community colleges. Data on the number of participants by sector is not available, so for simplicity, I use community college enrollment as the denominator. This biases the estimate upwards, but the percentage is so small that the effect is negligible. Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

California College Promise Grant / California Promise				
Available to community college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	973,748	945,168	920,426	800,122
Total awarded in grants	\$764,271,303	\$757,296,824	\$723,007,790	\$654,267,518
Data source	CCCCO	CCCCO	CCCCO	CCCCO
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	1,894,238	1,901,709	1,879,074	1,735,712
Aggregated participation rate	49.1%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$724,710,859			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$3,036,048,380			
Notes: The California College Promise Grant, a longstanding program formerly known as the “BOG Waiver,” functions as a first-dollar promise scholarship that is available to large shares of the state population. The California Promise, enacted in 2018, can be used by colleges to waive fees for those who do not qualify for the Promise Grant. The totals here reflect both programs combined. Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Hawai'i Promise				
Available to community college students and students at Maui College				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	1,443	1,378	1,711	1,800
Total awarded in grants	\$1,730,774	\$1,640,463	\$2,400,496	\$2,932,719
Data source	UH System	UH System	UH System	UH System
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	22,053	21,487	21,965	21,175
Aggregated participation rate	7.3%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$2,176,113			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$47,255,024			
Notes: Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship				
Available to community college students and students at some public and private four-year colleges and some private two-year colleges				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	See note	See note	3,063	3,033
Total awarded in grants	See note	See note	\$7,645,397	\$7,979,655
Data source	See note	See note	KHEAA	KHEAA
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	66,763	60,831
Aggregated participation rate	4.8%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$7,812,526			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$122,007,041			
Notes: Totals reflect participants at community colleges. Sufficient data before 2019-20 could not be found. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Available to community college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	N/A	966	2,025
Total awarded in grants	N/A	N/A	\$3,090,362	\$6,301,319
Data source	N/A	N/A	MHEC	MHEC
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	126,654	119,789
Aggregated participation rate	1.2%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$4,695,840			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$229,045,168			
Notes: The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship was first awarded in 2019. Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Michigan Reconnect Available to community college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	N/A	N/A	17,085
Total awarded in grants	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$14,166,236
Data source	N/A	N/A	N/A	Michigan LEO
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	–	170,615
Aggregated participation rate	10.0%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$14,166,236			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$359,181,414			
Notes: In 2020-21, Michigan also provided a statewide free college program called Futures for Frontliners, available to those who worked in an essential industry during spring 2020. Because Futures for Frontliners has expired, we do not include it here. Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Missouri A+ Scholarship				
Available to community college students and technical college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	12,865	13,039	13,493	14,809
Total awarded in grants	\$36,326,413	\$38,956,869	\$42,873,454	\$50,040,693
Data source	NASSGAP	NASSGAP	NASSGAP	NASSGAP
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	95,557	91,678	87,321	80,436
Aggregated participation rate	15.3%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$42,049,357			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$181,431,347			
Notes: Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). IPEDS data on technical college enrollment is not available; however, state-reported data shared with TCF by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development show that community college students comprised more than 98 percent of A+ Scholarship recipients in 2020-21, so I only use community college enrollment as the denominator.				

Nevada Promise				
Available to community college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	812	1,130	1,395
Total awarded in grants	N/A	\$1,756,610	\$2,386,065	\$2,794,157
Data source	N/A	NSHE	NSHE	NSHE
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	59,358	57,236	53,075
Aggregated participation rate	2.0%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$2,312,277			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$101,746,416			
Notes: Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Grant Available to community college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	N/A	10,313	12,855
Total awarded in grants	N/A	N/A	\$19,448,999	\$26,412,180
Data source	N/A	N/A	OSHE	OSHE
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	151,683	134,115
Aggregated participation rate	8.1%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$22,930,590			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$336,455,850			
Notes: Totals reflect all participants. See this sheet for my tabulations. The totals may be biased slightly upward due to students transferring between campuses in the middle of the year. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship Available to community college students and public four-year students, plus students at three tribal colleges				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,011
Total awarded in grants	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,272,050
Data source	N/A	N/A	N/A	NMHED
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	–	59,128
Aggregated participation rate	5.1%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$2,272,050			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$101,269,442			
Notes: Totals reflect participants at community colleges plus Dine College and Navajo Technical University. See this sheet for my tabulations. The New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship was established in 2020. NMHED reports total recipients in the fall and spring semesters separately and not combined. I took the greater of the two totals, which reflects spring 2021. New Mexico has made significant changes to the Opportunity Grant since 2020-21, and these totals should not be seen as the status quo. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Oklahoma's Promise				
Available to students at community colleges, regional public universities, some research universities, and a number of independent colleges.				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	5,381	4,622	4,607	4,307
Total awarded in grants	\$22,382,000	\$19,836,000	\$20,040,000	\$18,618,000
Data source	OKSRHE	OKSRHE	OKSRHE	OKSRHE
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	66,737	64,943	61,845	59,706
Aggregated participation rate	7.5%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$20,219,000			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$130,081,696			
Notes: Totals reflect participants at community colleges. See my tabulations here . Total grant amounts are estimates that are likely biased upward. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Oregon Promise				
Available to community college students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	9,457	10,529	11,625	8,949
Total awarded in grants	\$14,525,158	\$17,594,633	\$19,932,280	\$14,650,507
Data source	NASSGAP	NASSGAP	NASSGAP	NASSGAP
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	111,739	108,029	98,238	89,661
Aggregated participation rate	9.9%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$16,675,644			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$168,326,585			
Notes: Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Rhode Island Promise				
Available to Community College of Rhode Island students				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	See note	See note	1,567	1,627
Total awarded in grants	See note	See note	\$6,814,513	\$7,030,366
Data source	See note	See note	CCRI	RIOPC
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	17,437	15,902
Aggregated participation rate	9.6%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$6,922,440			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$35,280,953			
Notes: Sufficient reports not found for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Tennessee Promise/Reconnect				
Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect are available to students at community colleges, technical colleges, some independent colleges, and some public four-year colleges				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	See note	42,870	See note	See note
Total awarded in grants	See note	\$64,434,242	See note	See note
Data source	See note	THEC (1 , 2 , 3)	See note	See note
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	85,157	–	–
Aggregated participation rate	50.3%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$64,434,242			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$167,047,399			
Notes: See this sheet for my tabulations, which reflect reported and estimated totals for community colleges. The only available THEC report with participation numbers for Tennessee Reconnect reflects 2018-19. Because the inclusion of Tennessee Reconnect is essential to the overall numbers for Tennessee, I only assess statewide totals for 2018-19. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

Washington College Grant / College Bound Scholarship				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	N/A	N/A	55,203
Total awarded in grants	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$125,533,548
Data source	N/A	N/A	N/A	WSAC
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	–	112,610
Aggregated participation rate	49.0%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$125,533,548			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$436,306,606			
Notes: In 2019, Washington State revamped the State Need Grant, an existing financial aid program, naming the new program the Washington College Grant. Because the State Need Grant was not a promise program, I only use data from the first year of the Washington College Grant, 2020-21. Totals reflect participants at community and technical colleges. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				

West Virginia Invests Grant Program				
Available to community and technical college students, and the Potomac State College of WVU				
<i>Measure</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2020-21</i>
Reported grant recipients	N/A	N/A	1,168	1,431
Total awarded in grants	N/A	N/A	\$3,269,353	\$4,139,513
Data source	N/A	N/A	WVHEPC	WVHEPC
Sector-wide enrollment (via IPEDS)	–	–	15,628	13,331
Aggregated participation rate	9.0%			
Average annual amount awarded	\$3,704,433			
Projected annual ACP funding	\$37,574,975			
Notes: Totals reflect all participants. Sector-wide enrollment reflects undergraduate students seeking a degree or certificate, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).				