

A Descriptive Study of Washington State Need Grant Eligible Students Enrolled in Community and Technical Colleges in 2011-12

March 2013

Who colleges were both able and not able to serve due to funds available

The State Need Grant is Washington State's largest financial assistance program for low-income, needy, and disadvantaged residents attending institutions of higher education. It provides financial assistance to low-income residents attending an undergraduate institution in Washington. Currently, students with an income under 70 percent of the state's median family income (MFI) (currently \$57,500 for a family of four) can receive a grant award that covers their tuition and fees.

Community and Technical College (CTC) students make up the majority of students eligible for and served by the State Need Grant.¹ As early as five years ago, nearly all students enrolled in CTCs who were eligible for the Need Grant were served by it.

In recent years the number of eligible students in all sectors has risen with higher enrollments. Significantly, colleges have had insufficient Need Grant funding to meet this increased demand and as a result have been unable to serve many of these students. The majority of these not served students are in the two-year public sector. In 2011-12 there were 65,533 Need Grant eligible students enrolled in the two-year college system. The Need Grant served 47,626 students (73% of all eligible students) and 17,927 students (27% of all eligible students) were not served.

The issue remains critical as despite a leveling of enrollments in the slowly recovering economy, CTCs project to stay over enrolled for the foreseeable future and this suggests that demand for the Need Grant will stay high.

Key Findings

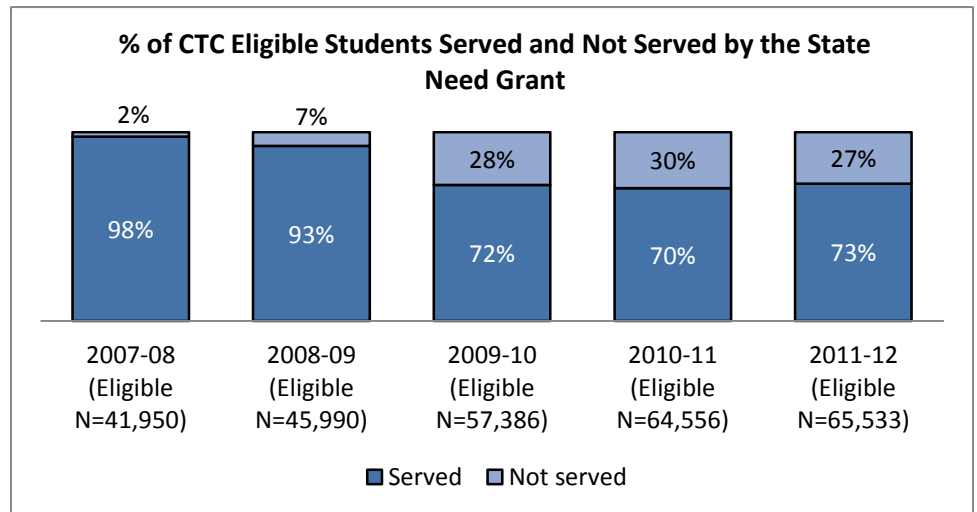
This report describes two year CTC students eligible for and enrolled in CTCs in 2011-12. It compares eligible students who were served and not served for demographics, enrollment status, and college retention rates.

- The percent of eligible students not receiving aid has risen substantially in the past five years as college enrollments swelled.
- The report shows that for students with similar characteristics and similar financial need, retention is significantly higher if eligible students receive a Need Grant.
- Students who receive the Need Grant have significantly more of their financial needs met than eligible students who are not served. The difference in financial aid received and the corresponding difference in financial need that is met by aid is due almost entirely to receipt or non-receipt of the Need Grant.

¹ http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SFAAnnualReport2012_0.pdf

Annually, how many students have been eligible for and served by the State Need Grant between 2007-08 and 2011-12?

The proportion of students eligible for the Need Grant who are served decreased by 2.5 students served for every ten eligible since 2007-08. In 2007-08, 41,950 CTC students completed financial aid applications and were deemed eligible for the Need Grant. Of these, 98% were served. Throughout the recession college enrollments swelled and with that the number of Need Grant eligible students increased.

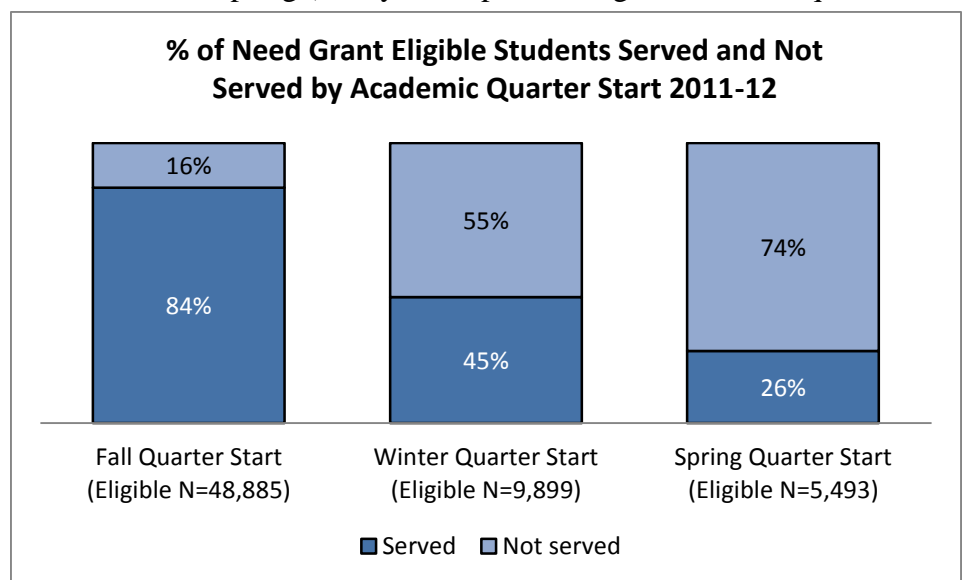


In 2011-12, 65,533 students were deemed Need Grant eligible. Of these, 47,626 (73%) were served and 17,927 (27%) were not served. The high water mark for not served students was in 2010-11, when 19,158, or 30%, of Need Grant eligible students were not served.

What is the enrollment status for eligible students who are served and not served by the State Need Grant in 2011-12?

Need Grant Eligible Students Served and Not Served by First Quarter Enrolled.

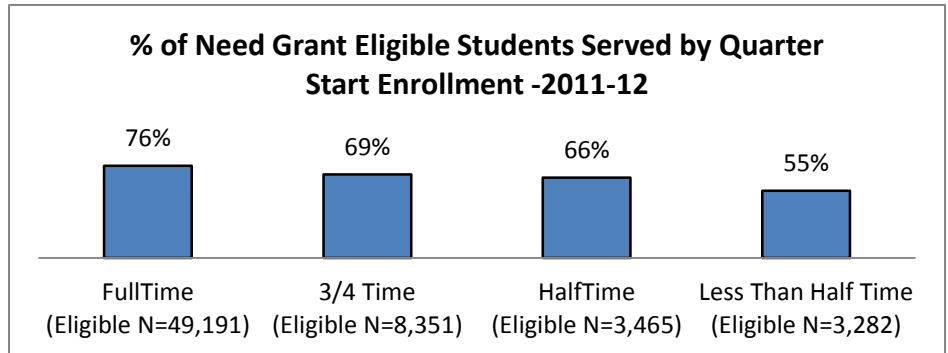
About three-fourths (75%) of Need Grant eligible students begin the academic year in fall quarter. Another 15% started in winter and 10% started in spring (a very small percent begin in summer quarter, but are excluded from this analysis). In 2011-12, 84% of Need Grant eligible students who started in fall were served. In contrast, 45% of those who started in winter quarter were served and 26% of those who started in spring were served. Therefore, eligible students are significantly less likely to be served if they start college later in the year when grant funds are depleted.



Need Grant Eligible Students Served and Not Served by Part and Full-Time Status in 1st Quarter Enrolled

In 2011-12, 49,191 of the eligible students enrolled full-time in their first quarter of college, excluding summer quarter. Eligible students who start full-time have the greatest likelihood of being served (76 percent).

Less than half-time students are the least likely to be served, although over half (55%) are.



Characteristics of served and not served students in 2011-12

In 2011-12, 65,533 students enrolled in community colleges were eligible for State Need Grants. The majority of all eligible students are older, independent students. Seventy-three percent (73%) of all Need Grant eligible students were served. The average median family income (MFI) for full-time/full-year students served by the Need Grant is at the 25th percentile and at the 28th percentile for not served students. Nearly nine out of ten (87%) of all eligible students are below the 50th percentile (\$41,000 for a family of four). Students identifying their race category as white make up a higher proportion of served vs. not served students. Students who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic make up a smaller proportion of served vs. not served students.

	Served as % of Column Total N	Not Served as % of Column Total N
Total (N=65,533)	47,626	17,927
Male (n= 25,832)	39%	40%
Female (n=39,163)	61%	60%
Average Age	27.8	26.8
Dependent (n=18,741)	28%	30%
Independent (n=46,254)	72%	70%
Native American (n=1,114)	2%	2%
Asian (n=3,830)	6%	6%
African American (n=5,452)	8%	9%
Hispanic (n=7,887)	11%	14%
Multi-Racial (n=2,925)	4%	5%
Other (n=1,339)	2%	2%
Pacific Islander (n=472)	1%	1%
Unknown Race/Ethnicity (n=3,152)	5%	5%
White (n=38,824)	61%	57%
0-50% MFI (n=56,432)	87%	87%
Average MFI Percentile for Full-Time Students	25%	28%

What kinds and how much financial aid do students eligible for the Need Grant receive?²

Aid by Source

Eligible students served by the Need Grant receive on average \$11,496 in total financial aid. This compares to \$8,235 received by eligible students not served by the Need Grant. The largest source of aid by dollar amount is federal aid. Of all eligible students, 97% receive some federal financial aid. Students served by the Need Grant receive more federal aid than those not served on average. Served students are also more likely to receive aid from all other sources; however, average institutional awards and other aid are larger for not served students.

Average Award (Students with Aid) Received by Source For a Full-Time/Full Year Student

	State	Federal	Institutional	Other Aid	Total Aid
Served	\$3,174	\$7,885	\$1,233	\$2,245	\$11,496
Not Served	\$2,347	\$7,169	\$1,694	\$2,595	\$8,235

% of SNG Eligible Students Receiving Aid by Source

	State	Federal	Institutional	Other Aid
Served	100%	97%	23%	7%
Not Served	14%	97%	10%	6%

Aid by Type

Grants and loans provide most of the financial aid that students receive. Eligible students served by the Need Grant receive \$8,338 in total grant aid. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of eligible students not served by the Need Grant receive other types of grant aid, primarily the Pell grant. The average amount of grant aid awarded to these not served students is \$5,515.

Average Award (Student with Aid) Received by Type For a Full-Time/Full Year Student

	State	Federal	Institutional	Other Aid
Served	100%	97%	23%	7%
Not Served	14%	97%	10%	6%

% of SNG Eligible Students Receiving Aid by Type

	Grants	Work Study	Loans
Served	100%	7%	37%
Not Served	97%	2%	34%

² All analyses of aid and need exclude 538 students enrolled in more than one college during the year.

Grant Awards Detail

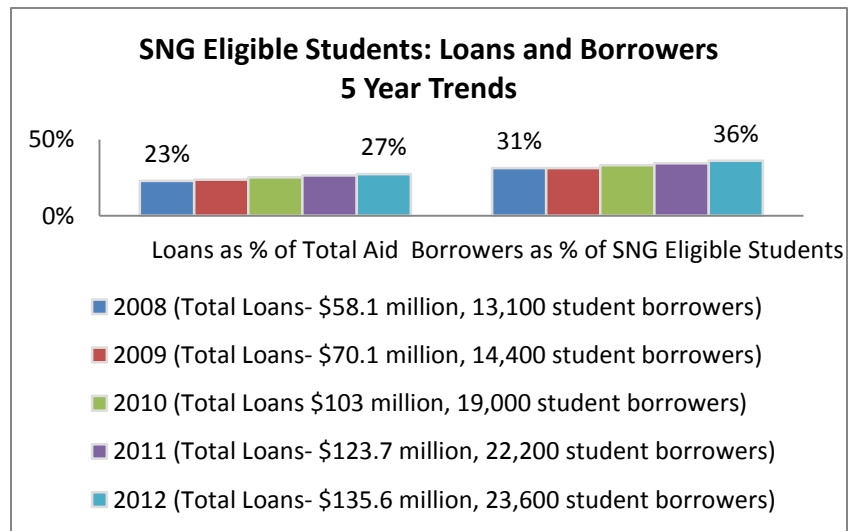
Eligible students served by the Need Grant receive \$2,823 more in grant aid than not served students receive. The difference in grant aid is due entirely to the Need Grant.

Average Grant Awards (Students with Grant Aid) Received by Type For a Full-Time/Full Year Student

	Total Grants	Need Grant	Pell Grant
Served	\$8,338	\$2,779	\$4,872
Not Served	\$5,515	\$0	\$4,554

Five Year Loan Borrowing Trend

Loans as a percent of aid received by Need Grant eligible students enrolled in community and technical colleges has risen from 23% of all aid dollars in 2007-08 to 27% of all aid dollars in 2011-12. The percent of Need Grant eligible students who borrow has risen from 31% to 36% in this five year period.



Loan Detail 2011-12: Served and Not Served Borrowers

About one third of eligible students borrow federal loans. Borrowing is similar for served and not served students.

Rates of borrowing are slightly higher for served students (37% versus 34%); however, not served students have slightly higher average loan amounts.

Average Grant Awards (Students with Loan Aid) Received by Type For a Full-Time/Full Year Student

	Total Loans	Subsidized Stafford Loan	Unsubsidized Loan
Served	\$6,917	\$3,475	\$4,288
Not Served	\$7,341	\$3,517	\$4,481

% of SNG Eligible Students Receiving Any Loan Aid by Type

	Total Loans	Subsidized Stafford Loan	Unsubsidized Loan
Served	37%	34%	29%
Not Served	34%	33%	25%

How much financial need is met by aid?

Need is the amount to fill the gap between a student's cost of attendance (tuition, books, living expenses) and their expected contribution. Eligible students served by the Need Grant have an average need of \$16,062 prior to receiving any aid. Not served students have a need level of \$14,362. Served students meet 72% of their need from financial aid. Not served students meet 57% of their need with aid. The Need Grant meets an additional 17 percent of need for served students

% of Total Need Met by Aid for Full-Time/Full-Year Need Grant Eligible Students

	Average Financial Need	Average Total Aid	Average Need Grant Aid	% of Need Met by Total Aid	% of Need Met by Need Grant
Served	\$16,062	\$11,496	\$2,779	72%	17%
Not Served	\$14,362	\$8,235	\$0	57%	

Need Met by Loans

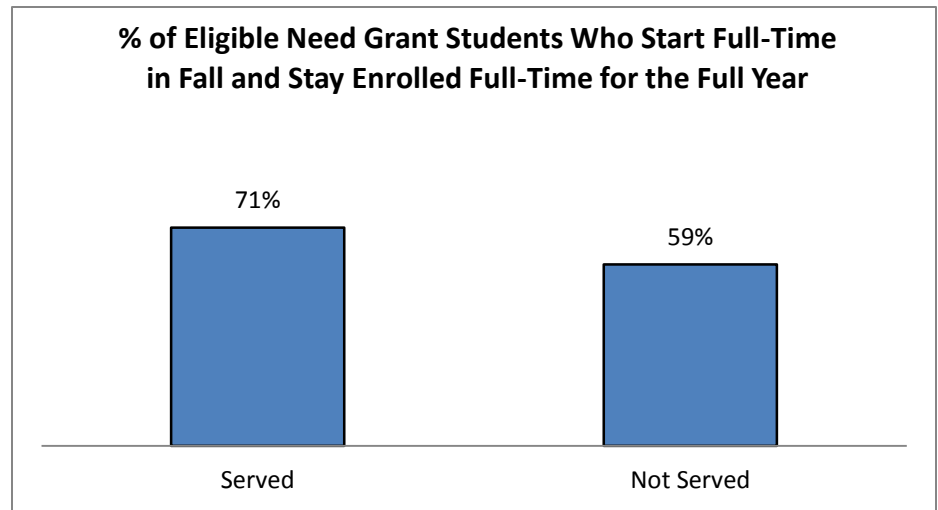
The subsets of eligible students who also borrow have 80 percent or more of their need met. Loans play a substantial part in meeting their need to these levels. Served students meet 87 percent of their need after borrowing. Not served students meet 80 percent of their need after borrowing. Loans fill 39 percent and 47 percent of need respectively for served and not served students.

% of Total Need Met by Aid for Full-Time/Full-Year Need Grant Eligible Students Who Have Loans

	Average Financial	Average Total Aid	Average Need Grant Aid	Average Loans	% of Need Met by Total Aid	% of Need Met by Need Grant	% of Need Met by Need Loans
Served and Have Loans	\$17,931	\$15,582	\$2,873	\$6,917	87%	16%	39%
Not Served and Have Loans	\$15,573	\$12,534	\$0	\$7,341	80%		47%

What is the fall to spring retention and academic progress for served and not served students in 2011-12?

Served students who start full-time in fall are 12% more likely than not served students who start full-time to attend the entire year full-time.



The overall fall to spring retention/completion for all served students is 82 percent. The same rate for eligible students who were not served is 72 percent.

Attending full-time to start is the strongest predictor for spring retention or completion. Eighty-three percent (83 percent) of full-time in fall students who received Need Grant awards were retained or completed by spring. This compares to 72 percent for not served students. (Students analyzed include both new and continuing students.) With the exception of students that started less than half-time, served students had significantly higher retention than not served students in every other category of fall start enrollment.

Largely as a result of more continuous and more full-time enrollment, served students earn substantially more credits on average throughout the year. Served students earn 34 credits during the year compared to 22 average credits earned for eligible students not served.

