

**Department of Education**  
**STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
**Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request**

**CONTENTS**

|   | <b><u>Page</u></b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Appropriations Language .....                             | P-1                |
| Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes.....          | P-2                |
| Appropriation, Adjustments and Transfers .....            | P-3                |
| Summary of Changes .....                                  | P-4                |
| Authorizing Legislation .....                             | P-5                |
| Appropriations History.....                               | P-6                |
| Summary of Request .....                                  | P-7                |
| Activities.....   | P-9                |
| Federal Pell grants .....                                 | P-9                |
| Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants ..... | P-23               |
| Federal work-study .....                                  | P-28               |
| Iraq and Afghanistan service grants.....                  | P-36               |

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For carrying out [subparts 1 , 3, and 10] subpart 1 of part A, and part C of title IV of the HEA, [\$24,520,352,000] \$22,975,352,000, which shall remain available through September 30, [2021] 2022.<sup>1</sup>

The maximum Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during award year [2020-2021] 2021-2022 shall be \$5,285<sup>2</sup>.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

[(RESCISSION)]

[SEC. 308. Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Student Financial Assistance” for carrying out subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the HEA, \$500,000,000 are hereby rescinded.]<sup>3</sup> (*Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2020.*)

## NOTE

Each language provision that is followed by a footnote reference is explained in the Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes document which follows the appropriation language.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes

| Language Provision   | Explanation   |
|--|---|
| <p><sup>1</sup>For carrying out [subparts 1, 3, and 10] <u>subpart 1</u> of part A of title IV of the HEA, [<del>\$24,520,352,000</del>] <u>\$22,975,352,000</u> which shall remain available through September 30, [<del>2021</del>] <u>2022</u>.</p>                   | <p>This language sets the availability of funds provided under the account through the end of fiscal year 2022.</p>   |
| <p><sup>2</sup>The maximum Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during award year [<del>2020-2021</del>] <u>2021-2022</u> shall be \$5,285.</p>  | <p>This language sets the maximum Pell Grant award for award year 2021-22. Including mandatory funding provided in the Higher Education Act, the Pell Grant maximum award in award year 2021-22 will be \$6,345, the same as the previous award year.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GENERAL PROVISIONS</b></p> <p><sup>3</sup>[Of the unobligated balance available under the heading "Student Financial Assistance" for carrying out subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the HEA, \$500,000,000 are hereby rescinded.]</p> | <p>The 2020 Appropriation rescinded \$500,000,000 of unobligated funds from the Pell Grant program. The 2021 Request does not include a rescission.</p>   |

**STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Appropriation, Adjustments and Transfers**  
(dollars in thousands)

---

| Appropriation/Adjustments/Transfers                       | 2019             | 2020             | 2021             |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Discretionary:</b>                                     |                  |                  |                  |
| Appropriation.....  | \$24,445,352     | \$24,520,352     | \$22,975,352     |
| <b>Mandatory:</b>   |                  |                  |                  |
| Appropriation .....                                       | <u>6,758,443</u> | <u>7,143,463</u> | <u>7,009,000</u> |
| Total, discretionary and<br>mandatory appropriation ..... | 31,203,795       | 31,663,815       | 29,984,352       |

---

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Summary of Changes

(dollars in thousands)

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2020 .....      | \$31,663,815      |
| 2021 .....      | <u>29,984,352</u> |
| Net change..... | -1,679,463        |

|  | <u>2020</u> | <u>Change<br/>from base</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Increases:</b>  |             |                             |
| <u>Program:</u>  |             |                             |
| Increase in indefinite mandatory funding required for the add-on to the maximum Pell Grant due to higher estimated program costs, including the cost associated with policy proposals. | \$5,738,000 | <u>+\$168,000</u>           |
| Subtotal, increases  |             | +168,000                    |
| <br>   |             |                             |
| <b>Decreases:</b>  |             |                             |
| <u>Program:</u>  |             |                             |
| Decrease in discretionary funding to reflect the elimination of the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program.   | 865,000     | -865,000                    |
| Decrease in discretionary funding to reflect changes to the Federal Work Study Program.  | 1,180,000   | -680,000                    |
| Decrease in indefinite mandatory funding required for the add-on to the maximum Pell Grant due to projected savings from improper payments.  | 5,738,000   | -19,000                     |
| Decrease in specified mandatory funding for use in the Pell Grant program due to amount provided in the HEA for FY 2020.   | 1,405,000   | -235,000                    |
| Decrease in specified mandatory funding in the HEA to offset the mandatory costs associated with Pell Grant policy proposals.  | 1,405,000   | -48,000                     |
| Decrease in mandatory funding to reflect the move of the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) program into the Pell Grant program.  | 463         | <u>-463</u>                 |
| Subtotal, decreases  |             | -1,847,463                  |
| Net change   |             | -1,679,463                  |

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Authorizing Legislation (dollars in thousands)

| Activity  | 2020<br>Authorized | 2020<br>Appropriated | 2021<br>Authorized | 2021<br>Request   |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Federal Pell grants (HEA-IV-A-1):   |                    |                      |                    |                   |
| Federal Pell grants (discretionary) .....                                 | 0 <sup>1</sup>     | \$22,475,352         | To be determined   | \$22,475,352      |
| Federal Pell grants (mandatory).....                                      | Indefinite         | 7,143,000            | To be determined   | 7,009,000         |
| Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants<br>(HEA-IV-A-3) ..... | 0 <sup>2</sup>     | 865,000              | 0 <sup>2</sup>     | 0                 |
| Federal Work-Study (HEA-IV-C) .....                                       | 0 <sup>3</sup>     | 1,180,000            | To be determined   | 500,000           |
| Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants (HEA-IV-A-10) .                       | Indefinite         | <u>463</u>           | <u>0</u>           | <u>0</u>          |
| Total discretionary appropriation .....                                   |                    | 24,520,352           |                    | 22,975,352        |
| Portion of the discretionary request subject to<br>reauthorization.....   |                    | <u>0</u>             |                    | <u>22,975,352</u> |
| Total mandatory appropriation.....  |                    | 7,143,463            |                    | 7,009,000         |
| Total appropriation .....   |                    | 31,663,815           |                    | 29,984,352        |

<sup>1</sup>The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2018; the program is authorized in FY 2020 through appropriations language; reauthorizing legislation is sought for fiscal year 2021.

<sup>2</sup>The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2015; the program is authorized in FY 2020 through appropriations language; reauthorizing legislation is not sought for fiscal year 2021.

<sup>3</sup>The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2015; the program is authorized in FY 2020 through appropriations language; reauthorizing legislation is sought for fiscal year 2021.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Appropriations History (dollars in thousands)

| Year | Budget Estimate to Congress | House Allowance           | Senate Allowance          | Appropriation            |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2012 | \$30,338,016                | \$22,367,521 <sup>1</sup> | \$24,670,517 <sup>1</sup> | \$24,535,281             |
| 2013 | 24,685,281                  | 24,535,281 <sup>2</sup>   | 24,535,281 <sup>2</sup>   | 24,400,122               |
| 2014 | 24,685,281                  | N/A <sup>3</sup>          | 24,536,210 <sup>4</sup>   | 24,486,210               |
| 2015 | 24,486,210                  | N/A <sup>3</sup>          | 24,233,210 <sup>5</sup>   | 24,198,210               |
| 2016 | 24,198,210                  | 23,828,210 <sup>6</sup>   | 24,129,352 <sup>6</sup>   | 24,198,210               |
| 2017 | 24,198,210                  | 22,888,210 <sup>7</sup>   | 24,198,210 <sup>7</sup>   | 24,198,210 <sup>7</sup>  |
| 2018 | 22,932,626                  | 24,198,210 <sup>8</sup>   | 24,198,210 <sup>8</sup>   | 24,033,880 <sup>8</sup>  |
| 2019 | 22,675,352                  | 24,445,352 <sup>9</sup>   | 24,445,352 <sup>9</sup>   | 24,445,352 <sup>9</sup>  |
| 2020 | 22,975,352                  | 24,937,352 <sup>10</sup>  | 24,445,352 <sup>10</sup>  | 24,520,352 <sup>10</sup> |
| 2021 | 22,975,352                  |                           |                           |                          |

<sup>1</sup> The level for the House allowance reflects an introduced bill; the level for the Senate allowance reflects Senate Committee action only.

<sup>2</sup> The level for the House and Senate allowances reflect action on the regular annual 2013 appropriations bill, which proceeded in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress only through the House Subcommittee and the Senate Committee.

<sup>3</sup> The House allowance is shown as N/A because there was no Subcommittee action.

<sup>4</sup> The level for the Senate allowance reflects Committee action only.

<sup>5</sup> The level for the Senate allowance reflects Senate Subcommittee action only.

<sup>6</sup> The levels for House and Senate allowances reflect action on the regular annual 2016 appropriations bill, which proceeded in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress only through the House Committee and Senate Committee.

<sup>7</sup> The levels for the House and Senate allowances reflect Committee action on the regular annual 2017 appropriations bill; the Appropriation reflects the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> The level for the House allowance reflects floor action on the Omnibus appropriations bill; the Senate allowance reflects Committee action on the regular annual 2018 appropriations bill; the Appropriation reflects the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141).

<sup>9</sup> The levels for the House and Senate allowance reflect Committee action on the regular annual 2019 appropriations bill; the Appropriation reflects enactment of the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-245).

<sup>10</sup> The Senate allowance reflects the Chairman's mark; the Appropriation reflects the Further Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94).

Click here for accessible version

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2021 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET  
(in thousands of dollars)

|  | Cat Code | 2019 Appropriation | 2020 Appropriation | 2021 President's Budget | 2021 President's Budget Compared to 2020 Appropriation |         |
|--|----------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|---------|
|  |          |                    |                    |                         | Amount   | Percent |

**Student Financial Assistance**

|                                      |   |   |            |            |            |           |         |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Federal Pell grants (HEA IV-A-1): |   |   |            |            |            |           |         |
| (a)                                  | Discretionary Pell grants                         | D | 22,475,352 | 22,475,352 | 22,475,352 | 0         | 0.00%   |
| (b)                                  | Mandatory Pell grants                             | M | 5,388,040  | 5,738,000  | 5,887,000  | 149,000   | 2.60%   |
| (c)                                  | Mandatory Funding for Discretionary Program Costs | M | 1,370,000  | 1,405,000  | 1,122,000  | (283,000) | -20.14% |
| Subtotal, Federal Pell grants        |   |   | 29,233,392 | 29,618,352 | 29,484,352 | (134,000) | -0.45%  |
|                                      | Discretionary                                     | D | 22,475,352 | 22,475,352 | 22,475,352 | 0         | 0.00%   |
|                                      | Mandatory   | M | 6,758,040  | 7,143,000  | 7,009,000  | (134,000) | -1.88%  |

**Federal Pell Grants Program Information (memorandum entry):**

|                             |   |                   |                   |                   |                |              |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Discretionary program costs | D | 22,693,000        | 23,893,000        | 24,496,483        | 603,483        | 2.53%        |
| Mandatory program costs     | M | 5,587,000         | 5,738,000         | 5,887,116         | 149,116        | 2.60%        |
| <b>Total, program costs</b> |   | <b>28,280,000</b> | <b>29,631,000</b> | <b>30,383,599</b> | <b>752,599</b> | <b>2.54%</b> |

Maximum award (in whole dollars)

|                            |  |              |              |              |          |              |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Base award                 |  | 5,135        | 5,285        | 5,285        | 0        | 0.00%        |
| Mandatory add-on           |  | 1,060        | 1,060        | 1,060        | 0        | 0.00%        |
| <b>Total maximum award</b> |  | <b>6,195</b> | <b>6,345</b> | <b>6,345</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0.00%</b> |

|                           |  |       |       |       |     |       |
|---------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| Recipients (in thousands) |  | 6,673 | 6,834 | 7,086 | 252 | 3.69% |
|---------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|

|   |  |   |                   |                   |                   |                    |               |
|---|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2. Campus-based programs:   |  |   |                   |                   |                   |                    |               |
| (a)   | Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants (HEA IV-A-3) | D | 840,000           | 865,000           | 0                 | (865,000)          | -100.00%      |
| (b)   | Federal work-study (HEA IV-C)                                    | D | 1,130,000         | 1,180,000         | 500,000           | (680,000)          | -57.63%       |
| Subtotal, Campus-based programs                                   |  |   | 1,970,000         | 2,045,000         | 500,000           | (1,545,000)        | -75.55%       |
| 3. Iraq and Afghanistan service grants (P.L. 111-39) <sup>1</sup> |  |   |                   |                   |                   |                    |               |
|   |  | M | 403               | 463               | 0                 | (463)              | -100.00%      |
| <b>Total</b>  |  |   | <b>31,203,795</b> | <b>31,663,815</b> | <b>29,984,352</b> | <b>(1,679,463)</b> | <b>-5.30%</b> |
|   | Discretionary  | D | 24,445,352        | 24,520,352        | 22,975,352        | (1,545,000)        | -6.30%        |
|   | Mandatory  | M | 6,758,443         | 7,143,463         | 7,009,000         | (134,463)          | -1.88%        |

NOTES: D = discretionary program; M = mandatory program  
Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

Note: Pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25), most mandatory programs, with the exception of Pell Grants, Credit Liquidating, and Credit Reestimates, the levels shown in the 2019 Appropriation column reflect the 6.2 percent reduction that went into effect on October 1, 2018; and the levels shown in the 2020 Appropriation column reflect the 5.9 percent reduction that went into effect on October 1, 2019.

<sup>1</sup>The 2021 President's Budget column reflects the budget proposal to end the current Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant program and consolidate it into the Pell Grant program.



## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Summary of Request

The Administration's fiscal year 2021 budget request will provide \$125 billion in new Federal grants, loans, and work-study assistance to help students pay for postsecondary education and compete for new jobs in the expanding economy. Overall, funds requested for programs in the Student Financial Assistance account would provide \$30.9 billion in aid<sup>1</sup> and 7.4 million student aid awards. The fiscal year 2021 budget request takes steps to redirect and expand Federal student aid to students with the most need so they can obtain the skills and education required in today's workforce. The request also proposes the evaluation of Federal Student Aid (FSA) as a separate organization, with reformed governance, to significantly improve FSA's ability to serve students and taxpayers by improving its management, oversight, and administration of the Federal student aid programs.

The fiscal year 2021 funding proposed for the Student Financial Assistance (SFA) account is \$30.0 billion, approximately \$1.7 billion less than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation. This includes a discretionary request of \$23.0 billion: \$22.5 billion for Pell grants and \$500 million for Federal Work-Study (FWS). More than \$7.0 billion in mandatory funds are provided in fiscal year 2021 for the Pell Grant program.

The Administration's 2021 budget proposal maintains Pell Grant funding in fiscal year 2021 and ensures the program remains on a stable footing, while also expanding eligibility where it is most needed. Under the fiscal year 2021 proposal, the maximum Pell Grant in award year 2021-22 will be \$6,345, the same level as the previous award year. The Administration's request proposes to expand Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in high-quality short-term programs offered by institutions that provide students with a credential, certification, or license in a high-demand field. The budget also makes Pell Grants available to certain incarcerated students to improve employment outcomes, reduce recidivism, and facilitate their successful reentry to society. The Administration's proposal also restores nearly \$400 a year to each recipient of an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, by protecting those grants from sequestration cuts and treating them just like Pell Grants.

The request would also reform campus-based programs by focusing limited resources on bolstering effective workforce development opportunities for students with the greatest need. The Administration proposes to reduce funding for the FWS program to \$500 million in fiscal year 2021, a reduction of \$680 million, or 58 percent compared to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation. The request also proposes to reform the FWS program to support workforce and career-oriented training opportunities for low-income undergraduate students. The Administration's budget request would also save \$865 million in fiscal year 2021 by eliminating the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program, which currently allows institutions to provide grant aid to students that do not always have the greatest need for assistance and is duplicative of the better-targeted Pell Grant program.

Fiscal year 2021 program-specific funding information and policy proposals, as well as program performance information that applies to all student assistance programs, are discussed in the **Student Aid Overview**.

---

<sup>1</sup> Total aid available is based on new budget authority and any required matching funds, less allowable administrative costs.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

---

### Federal Pell grants

(Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2021 Authorization: To be determined

Budget authority:<sup>1</sup>

|   | <u>2020</u><br><u>Appropriation</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Request</u> | <u>Change from</u><br><u>2020 to 2021</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Program funds:  |                                     |                               |   |
| Discretionary appropriation   | \$22,475,352                        | \$22,475,352                  | \$0                                       |
| Mandatory appropriation   | 5,738,000                           | 5,887,000                     | +149,000                                  |
| Mandatory appropriation for<br>discretionary program costs <sup>2</sup> | <u>1,405,000</u>                    | <u>1,122,000</u>              | <u>-283,000</u>                           |
| Subtotal, current year funding  | 29,618,352                          | 29,484,352                    | -134,000                                  |
| Pell Grant program costs  | 29,631,000                          | 30,383,599                    | +752,599                                  |

---

<sup>1</sup>Table reflects discretionary budget appropriations and mandatory budget authority in support of program costs for each fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup>The Higher Education Act (HEA) provides \$1,170,000 thousand in mandatory funding to be used for discretionary program costs in FY 2021. The budget proposes to use \$48,000 thousand of this funding to offset the cost of student aid policy proposals included in the Budget.

---

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Federal Pell Grant program helps ensure access to postsecondary education for low- and moderate-income undergraduate students by providing grants that help meet postsecondary education costs. The program also promotes lifelong learning by providing resources for low- and moderate-income adults now in the workplace to return to school to upgrade skills.

The Department provides funds to participating institutions to deliver aid to all students at the institution who are eligible and apply for a Pell Grant. Unlike Campus-Based Programs (SEOG and FWS), a student's eligibility is not dependent on the availability of funds awarded to the institution.

A Pell Grant is the foundation of a student's financial aid package, to which other forms of aid are added. The amount of a student's Pell Grant is dependent on the student's "expected family contribution" (EFC), cost of education, whether the student attends school full time or part time, and whether the student's program is a full academic year in length or less. Pell Grant

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

disbursements are made to a student at least once every term during the award year or at the beginning and mid-point for programs without terms.

Budget authority in the Pell Grant program is available for 2 fiscal years; for example, funds become available for obligation on October 1 of the fiscal year in which they are appropriated and remain available through September 30 of the following fiscal year. Funds proposed for fiscal year 2021 would be used for grants in the 2021-22 award year, which runs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. If Pell Grant costs for a given academic year exceed the corresponding appropriation, the Department uses the next fiscal year's appropriation to cover the balance.

The Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act (FUTURE Act) of 2019 has excepted the Department from restrictions of Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code to authorize the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to disclose tax return information directly to the Department for the purpose of administering certain Federal aid programs. One of the primary causes of improper payments in the Pell Grant program is failure to verify financial data accurately. This new exception is expected to simplify and improve the accuracy of FAFSA filing by prepopulating certain fields.

Recent and projected funding: The Pell Grant program is the single largest source of grant aid for postsecondary education and helps ensure low-income students can afford higher education and successfully attain a postsecondary credential. In 2021, nearly 7.1 million students are expected to receive Pell Grant awards up to \$6,345. The program operates as an entitlement to eligible students once the maximum grant, award rules, and payment schedule are established. The Higher Education Act (HEA) does not provide for the denial of an award to any student who meets the qualifying conditions, nor does it allow the Secretary to reduce any student's award level.

Mandatory funding: The College Cost Reduction and Access Act authorized mandatory funding to support increases to the Pell maximum award set in each fiscal year's appropriations act. The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (HCERA) amended that provision and increased the maximum award by \$690 for award years 2010-2011 through 2012-2013, and by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2013 to 2017. Beginning with the 2018-19 award year, the add-on award is equal to the award year 2017-2018 level and is not increased by the CPI.

Pell Grant program scoring rule: The congressional budget resolution for fiscal year 2006 included a rule under which appropriations bills for the Pell Grant program are scored by the Congressional Budget Office for the estimated budget authority needed to fund the program for that year, or the requested budget authority, whichever is greater. If the appropriation exceeds the program cost as estimated at the beginning of the subsequent fiscal year, any surplus is available to reduce the appropriation needed to support that subsequent year's program costs. Conversely, if the appropriation is lower than the updated estimated program cost, the difference is automatically scored against the subsequent year's appropriation.

Given the nature of the program, it is reasonable to consider Pell Grants an individual entitlement for purposes of budget analysis and enforcement. Congress has chosen to continue treating the portion funded in annual appropriations acts as discretionary, continuing the scoring

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

of budget authority for Pell Grants against the appropriations allocations established annually under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act. Like previous years, this budget presents the portion of Pell Grants provided in the annual appropriations act as discretionary funding.

Need analysis formula: The need analysis formula for the Title IV need-based student aid programs, stipulated in the HEA, determines financial eligibility for Pell Grants and is applied uniformly to all applicants. This formula determines a student's EFC. The fundamental elements in the formula are the student's (and in the case of dependent students, their parents') income and assets (excluding the value of the family's home or farm), the family's household size, and the number of family members (excluding the student's parents) attending postsecondary institutions. The EFC is the sum of (1) a percentage of net income (remaining income after subtracting allowances for taxes and basic living expenses), and (2) a percentage of net assets (assets remaining after subtracting an asset protection allowance). Different assessment rates and allowances are used for dependent students, independent students, and independent students with dependents. For award year 2020-21, the income threshold at which a dependent student receives an automatic zero EFC determination is \$26,000.

Institutional participation: More than 4,500 postsecondary institutions currently participate in the Pell Grant program. Institutions that lose their eligibility to participate in the loan programs due to high default rates are also precluded from participation in the Pell Grant program.

Student participation: Students may use their grants at any participating postsecondary institution. Pell Grants are disbursed to the student through the institution. The Pell Grant program is the largest source of grant aid to students under the HEA, with approximately 39 percent of all undergraduates receiving a Pell Grant.

Recipients must be undergraduates and cannot have received a bachelor's degree previously (except for certain teacher certificate programs) and must be enrolled with the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate at an eligible institution.

Students must also have a high school diploma (or its equivalent) or have been homeschooled. Students who did not have a high school diploma or were not homeschooled and first enrolled in an eligible program prior to July 1, 2012, may receive a Pell Grant by meeting one of the ability-to-benefit (ATB) alternatives. These alternatives include: (1) passing an independently administered, Department-approved ability-to-benefit test; (2) completing at least 6 credit hours or 225 clock hours that are applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by the institution; or (3) completing a State process approved by the Secretary of Education.

Students who did not have a high school diploma or were not homeschooled and first enrolled in an eligible program on or after July 1, 2012, can only become eligible through one of the ATB alternatives described above if they are enrolled in an eligible career pathway program as defined in section 484(d)(2) of the HEA.

Less than full-time students are eligible for pro rata awards based on their enrollment status. As of July 1, 2012, students are eligible for Pell Grants for a maximum of 12 semesters (or its equivalent) of full-time enrollment.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

A student in default on a loan made under any Title IV HEA loan program, or who owes an overpayment on any other previously received Federal student aid, may not receive additional funds under the program unless he or she repays the debt in full or makes satisfactory repayment arrangements with the holder of the debt.

Annual award amount: The annual award amount may vary from the statutory minimum payment up to the maximum authorized by statute for the academic year. The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 enacted a minimum Pell Grant award of 10 percent of the maximum award. That is, students who do not qualify for at least 10 percent of the maximum grant do not receive a Pell award. Appropriations acts set annual maximum award levels. For award year 2020-21, the 2020 appropriation level supports an award of \$5,285. With the mandatory add-on award established by the HCERA, the maximum award will increase to \$6,345. The minimum Pell award for award year 2020-21 is \$634.

The aggregate Pell Grant award is the lesser of:

- the maximum award (as set in annual appropriations acts) plus the additional amount provided by mandatory funds, minus the EFC, or
- the student's cost of attendance minus the EFC.

Additionally, students who complete more than one academic year within an award year are eligible for larger awards under the "year-round Pell" provision, which was enacted in the fiscal year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Awards under this provision are capped at 150% of the student's regular award. In the 2018-19 award year approximately 788,000 recipients benefitted from the year-round Pell provision with an average additional award of nearly \$1,600. The total aid disbursed under this provision was \$1.2 billion.

Cost of attendance: For purposes of determining the Pell Grant award, the postsecondary institution establishes the cost of attendance using the following cost items:

- tuition and fees;
- an allowance for books, supplies, transportation, dependent care, and miscellaneous expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of a personal computer; and
- living allowances of:
  - the actual amount charged by the institution for room and board for students living at school,
  - an amount determined by the institution for students without dependents living at home with parents, or
  - for all other students, an amount based on the expenses reasonably incurred for room and board.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

The cost of attendance for less-than-half-time students includes: tuition and fees; an allowance for books, supplies and transportation; and dependent care.

Financial aid administrator discretion: The HEA stipulates financial aid administrators may, on the basis of adequate documentation and on a case-by-case basis, adjust a student's Pell Grant award by changing the cost of attendance or the value of data elements used to calculate the EFC to reflect "special circumstances," such as the following:

- tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school;
- medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance;
- unusually high childcare costs;
- recent unemployment of an independent student or a family member;
- changes in a student's housing status resulting in homelessness;
- the number of parents enrolled at least half-time in a degree or certificate or other program leading to a recognized educational credential at an institution participating in any of the Title IV programs; or
- other changes in a family's income, assets, or a student's status.

Institutional payments: The HEA provides for payment to institutions of \$5 per Pell Grant recipient to reimburse institutions for a share of the cost of administering the Pell Grant program. Funds for these payments are paid from the Pell Grant appropriation. In award year 2020-21, these payments will total \$34 million.

Because of the structure of the Pell Grant program, annual funding levels may not equal annual expenditures.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

Discretionary and mandatory funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

| Fiscal Year | (dollars in thousands)    |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2016.....   | \$27,315,713 <sup>1</sup> |
| 2017.....   | 29,475,752 <sup>2</sup>   |
| 2018.....   | 29,806,691 <sup>3</sup>   |
| 2019.....   | 29,233,392 <sup>4</sup>   |
| 2020.....   | 29,618,352 <sup>5</sup>   |

---

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$4,840 million in mandatory funds to increase maximum award by \$965.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$5,680 million in mandatory funds to increase maximum award by \$1,060 and \$1,320 million in additional mandatory funds provided in legislation to reduce discretionary need.

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$5,997 million in mandatory funds to increase maximum award by \$1,060 and \$1,334 million in additional mandatory funds provided in legislation to reduce discretionary need.

<sup>4</sup> Includes \$5,388 million in mandatory funds to increase maximum award by \$1,060 and \$1,370 million in additional mandatory funds provided in legislation to reduce discretionary need.

<sup>5</sup> Includes \$5,738 million in mandatory funds to increase maximum award by \$1,060 and \$1,405 million in additional mandatory funds provided in legislation to reduce discretionary need.

---

### FY 2021 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration's budget request for fiscal year 2021 includes \$22.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Pell Grant program, level with the 2020 appropriation. This discretionary request, plus \$7.0 billion in mandatory funding, establishes the total fiscal year 2021 Pell funding level at \$29.5 billion. The mandatory request supports an add-on award of \$1,060 to the base maximum award of \$5,285, resulting in a total maximum award of \$6,345 in award year 2021-22.

The fiscal year 2021 request would expand Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in high-quality, short-term programs offered by institutions that lead to a credential, certification, or license in a high-demand field. Currently, students enrolled in these types of postsecondary programs are not eligible to receive federal student aid due to time and program length requirements. The proposed expansion reflects the principle that Federal laws and regulations should be updated to facilitate, not impede, students from acquiring the skills needed in today's workforce. This proposal would help more Americans access education and training programs that provide them with the skills needed to secure well-paying jobs in high-demand fields more quickly than traditional 2-year or 4-year degree programs.

The request also includes expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to certain incarcerated students. Today, nearly 1.5 million Americans are in prisons across the country, and more than 95 percent of these prisoners will eventually leave prison and face the challenge of getting jobs and rebuilding their lives. Research shows that correctional education reduces the likelihood of

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

recidivism, benefitting the individual and saving taxpayers reincarceration costs<sup>1</sup>. To support returning citizens by improving employment outcomes and reducing recidivism, the request proposes to expand Pell Grant eligibility to incarcerated students. The proposal includes the following parameters:

- Students must be within five years of their likely release and participating in programs that prepare them for high-demand occupations that can also be completed post-release.
- Students cannot enroll in programs that prepare them for fields where they face legal barriers to employment.
- Institutions, to be eligible, must provide academic and career guidance to students,
- Participating institutions and Federal and state prisons cannot use the Pell Grant funds to supplant existing funding for postsecondary prison-based education programs.

Additionally, the request proposes to prevent fraudulent activity by barring someone from receiving another Pell Grant if they have been awarded three consecutive Pell Grants without earning any credits.

Finally, the Administration's fiscal year 2021 request proposes to move the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) program into the Pell Grant program to protect these students from cuts to their grant of nearly \$400 each year. This proposal is discussed in further detail in the IASG section.

The request for this program is best understood in the context of the Administration's proposals for student aid programs as a whole. Accordingly, program-specific funding information and policy proposals also are discussed in the **Student Aid Overview**.

## PELL GRANT PROGRAM HISTORICAL DATA

### Applicant and Recipient Growth

The graphs on the following pages show the latest applicant, recipient, and aid available trends for the Pell Grant program. Applicants are estimated at 15.4 million for award year 2021-22, an increase of 400,000 compared to award year 2020-21. Recipients are estimated at 7.1 million in award year 2021-22, an increase of 252,000 over award year 2020-21, including an estimated 111,000 due to proposed policies.

Many factors affect applicant growth, including demographic trends and changes in economic conditions, such as labor market demands, as well as the inclusion of recently finalized regulations governing accreditation. Factors affecting recipient growth include family incomes, need analysis, college costs, the level of the maximum Pell Grant award, and changes in the volume of applicants.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR266.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html)



## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

The following tables show program information consistent with actual or requested funding levels.

**Federal Pell Grants Applicant Trends<sup>1</sup>**

| Award Year | Valid Applicants <sup>2</sup> | Applicant Growth:<br>Number | Applicant Growth:<br>Percent Change |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2003-04    | 11,093,506                    | 738,981                     | 7.14%                               |
| 2004-05    | 11,539,497                    | 445,991                     | 4.02%                               |
| 2005-06    | 11,611,388                    | 71,891                      | 0.62%                               |
| 2006-07    | 11,811,911                    | 200,523                     | 1.73%                               |
| 2007-08    | 12,299,232                    | 487,321                     | 4.13%                               |
| 2008-09    | 13,883,288                    | 1,584,056                   | 12.88%                              |
| 2009-10    | 16,482,495                    | 2,599,207                   | 18.72%                              |
| 2010-11    | 17,625,778                    | 1,143,283                   | 6.94%                               |
| 2011-12    | 18,458,701                    | 832,923                     | 4.73%                               |
| 2012-13    | 18,294,947                    | -163,754                    | -0.89%                              |
| 2013-14    | 17,915,446                    | -379,501                    | -2.07%                              |
| 2014-15    | 17,312,207                    | -603,239                    | -3.37%                              |
| 2015-16    | 16,362,617                    | -949,590                    | -5.49%                              |
| 2016-17    | 15,462,153                    | -900,464                    | -5.50%                              |
| 2017-18    | 15,529,912                    | 67,759                      | 0.44%                               |
| 2018-19    | 15,240,392                    | -289,520                    | -1.86%                              |
| 2019-20    | 15,039,467                    | -200,925                    | -1.32%                              |
| 2020-21    | 14,985,059                    | -54,408                     | -0.36%                              |
| 2021-22    | 15,400,726                    | 415,667                     | 2.77%                               |

---

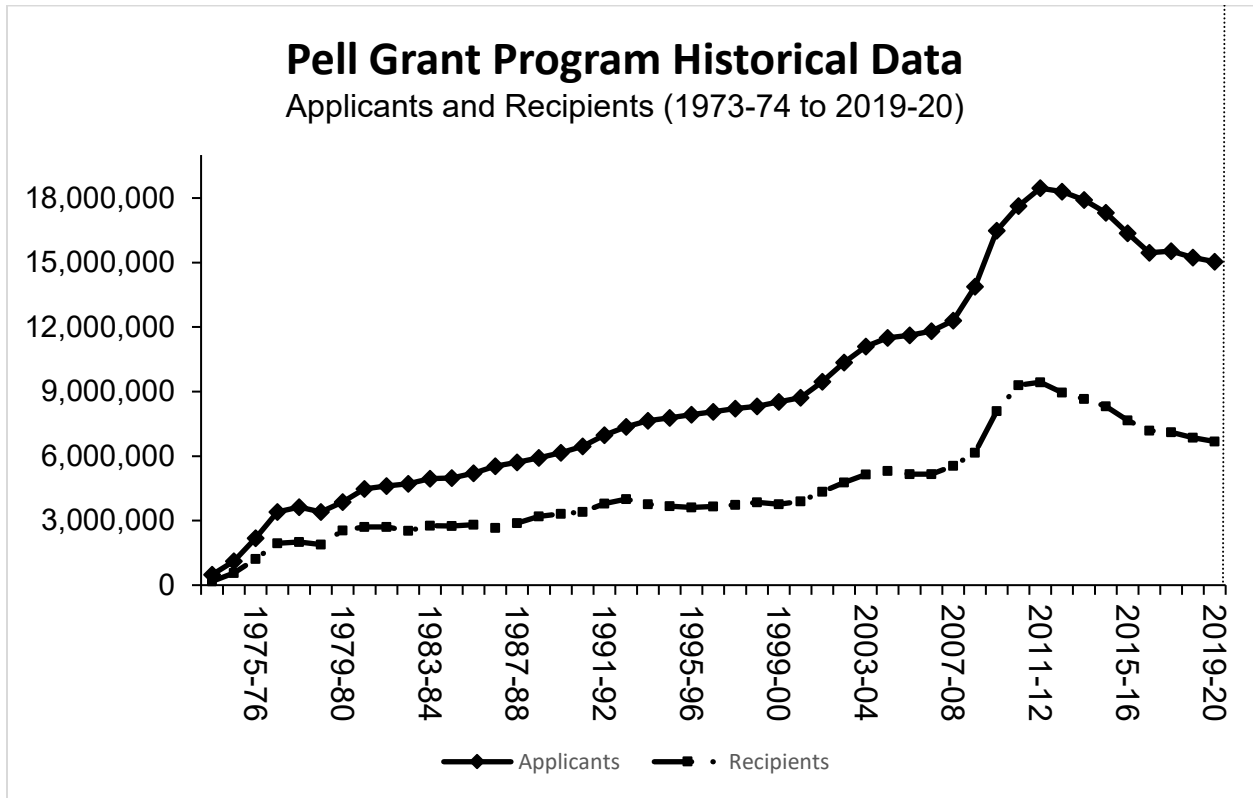
<sup>1</sup> Applicant data through award year (AY) 2018-19 are considered final and are taken from internal operational reports. Applicant data for award years 2019-20 through 2021-22 are estimates and are subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> A valid applicant is an undergraduate student who submits an application with sufficient data to calculate an EFC and determine Pell Grant eligibility.

---

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants



NOTE: Applicants reflect those applying for all Federal student financial assistance, including those receiving only non-need-based student loans.

### Number of Recipients:

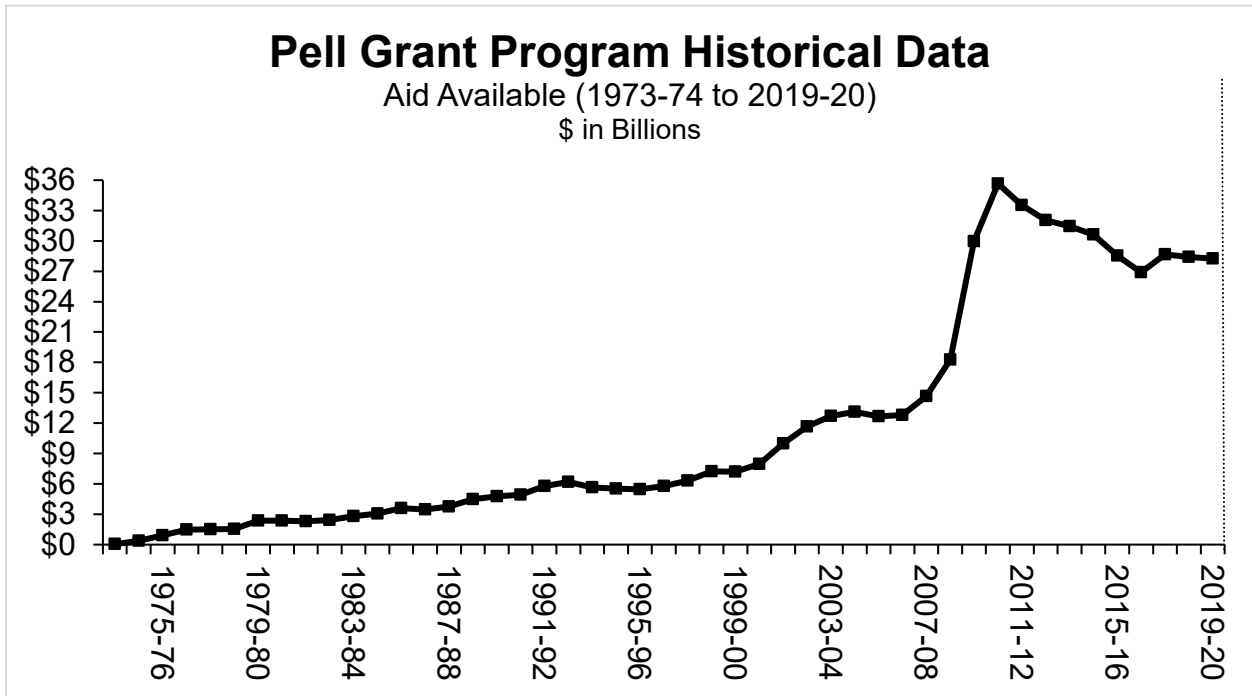
Under current estimates, the funds requested for fiscal year 2021 would support Pell Grant awards to 7.1 million recipients.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

#### Aid Available

Under current estimates, the Administration's fiscal year 2021 proposal would provide \$30.3 billion in Pell Grants to students.



#### Maximum award

The Administration proposes to maintain the base maximum award at \$5,285 for award year 2021-22 through discretionary and mandatory funding. The cost of providing the mandatory add-on that increases the maximum award to \$6,345 in award year 2021-22 is funded by permanent mandatory indefinite funding as provided through HCERA.

**Pell Maximum Award, Aid Available, and Recipients**

| Award Year | Maximum Award | Aid Available (dollars in millions) | Recipients |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 2016-17    | \$5,825       | \$26,884                            | 7,192,223  |
| 2017-18    | 5,920         | 28,672                              | 7,111,342  |
| 2018-19    | 6,095         | 28,402                              | 6,862,000  |
| 2019-20    | 6,195         | 28,247                              | 6,673,000  |
| 2020-21    | 6,345         | 29,597                              | 6,834,000  |
| 2021-22    | 6,345         | 30,348                              | 7,086,000  |

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

The following table shows the Pell Grant maximum award levels, budget authority by type, and program costs for fiscal years 2012 to 2021. Fiscal year 2021 reflects the President's Budget policies.

**Pell Maximum Award Levels, Budget Authority, and Program Costs**  
(Dollars in Thousands, Except for Maximum Award Levels)

| FY   | Maximum Award | Discretionary Budget Authority | Mandatory Budget Authority | Mandatory for Discretionary Budget Authority | Total Budget Authority | Program Cost            |
|------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2012 | \$5,550       | \$22,824,000                   | \$4,950,000                | \$13,795,000                                 | \$41,569,000           | \$32,082,000            |
| 2013 | 5,645         | 22,778,352                     | 4,854,000                  | 7,587,000                                    | 35,219,352             | 31,490,000              |
| 2014 | 5,730         | 22,778,352                     | 4,835,469                  | 588,000                                      | 28,201,821             | 30,651,000              |
| 2015 | 5,775         | 22,475,352                     | 5,152,933                  | 0  | 27,628,285             | 28,585,000              |
| 2016 | 5,825         | 22,475,352                     | 4,840,361                  | 0  | 27,315,713             | 26,920,000              |
| 2017 | 5,920         | 22,475,352                     | 5,680,400                  | 1,320,000                                    | 29,475,752             | 28,708,000              |
| 2018 | 6,095         | 22,475,352                     | 5,997,339                  | 1,334,000                                    | 29,806,691             | 28,059,000              |
| 2019 | 6,195         | 22,475,352                     | 5,388,040                  | 1,370,000                                    | 29,233,392             | 28,280,000 <sup>1</sup> |
| 2020 | 6,345         | 22,475,352                     | 5,738,000                  | 1,405,000                                    | 29,618,352             | 29,631,000 <sup>1</sup> |
| 2021 | 6,345         | 22,475,352                     | 5,887,000                  | 1,122,000                                    | 29,484,352             | 30,383,599 <sup>1</sup> |

---

<sup>1</sup> Estimate.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants

---

#### Distribution of Pell Grants

##### Distribution of Pell Grants by Student Status and Income Level

The tables below illustrate the distribution of Pell Grant funds to dependent and independent students at various income levels. In 2018-2019, approximately 66 percent of all Pell Grant recipients (including independent students) had incomes less than or equal to \$30,000.

##### **Distribution of Pell Grants to Dependent Undergraduates in 2018-19**

| Income Level           | Recipients       | Available Aid         | Average Award |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 0 - \$6,000            | 422,033          | \$2,125,318,630       | \$5,036       |
| \$6,001 - \$9,000      | 89,977           | 456,349,259           | 5,072         |
| \$9,001 - \$20,000     | 691,977          | 3,503,741,462         | 5,063         |
| \$20,001 - \$30,000    | 650,879          | 3,256,752,192         | 5,004         |
| \$30,001 +             | 1,601,277        | 5,430,679,005         | 3,391         |
| <b>Total Dependent</b> | <b>3,456,143</b> | <b>14,772,840,548</b> | <b>4,274</b>  |

Independent students make up nearly half of the students receiving assistance under the Pell Grant program. These recipients tend to be in the lowest income groups, as shown below.

##### **Distribution of Pell Grants to Independent Undergraduates in 2018-19**

| Income Level              | Recipients       | Available Aid         | Average Award |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 0 - \$ 1,000              | 604,265          | \$2,664,795,415       | \$4,410       |
| \$1,001 - \$ 3,000        | 142,368          | 650,950,075           | 4,572         |
| \$3,001 - \$ 6,000        | 216,644          | 986,370,320           | 4,553         |
| \$6,001 - \$ 9,000        | 234,037          | 1,052,708,705         | 4,498         |
| \$9,001 - \$15,000        | 553,225          | 2,375,077,241         | 4,293         |
| \$15,001 - \$20,000       | 423,803          | 1,532,248,846         | 3,615         |
| \$20,001 - \$30,000       | 528,332          | 1,845,052,039         | 3,492         |
| \$30,001 +                | 703,183          | 2,521,646,811         | 3,586         |
| <b>Total Independent</b>  | <b>3,405,857</b> | <b>13,628,849,452</b> | <b>4,002</b>  |
| <b>All Undergraduates</b> | <b>6,862,000</b> | <b>28,401,690,000</b> | <b>4,139</b>  |

##### Distribution of Pell Grants by Type of Institution

The table below shows the distribution of Pell Grants to students attending different types of institutions. In 2018-2019, approximately 42 percent of the total aid available for Pell Grants went to students attending Public 4-Year schools, and approximately 29 percent went to students attending Public 2-Year schools.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

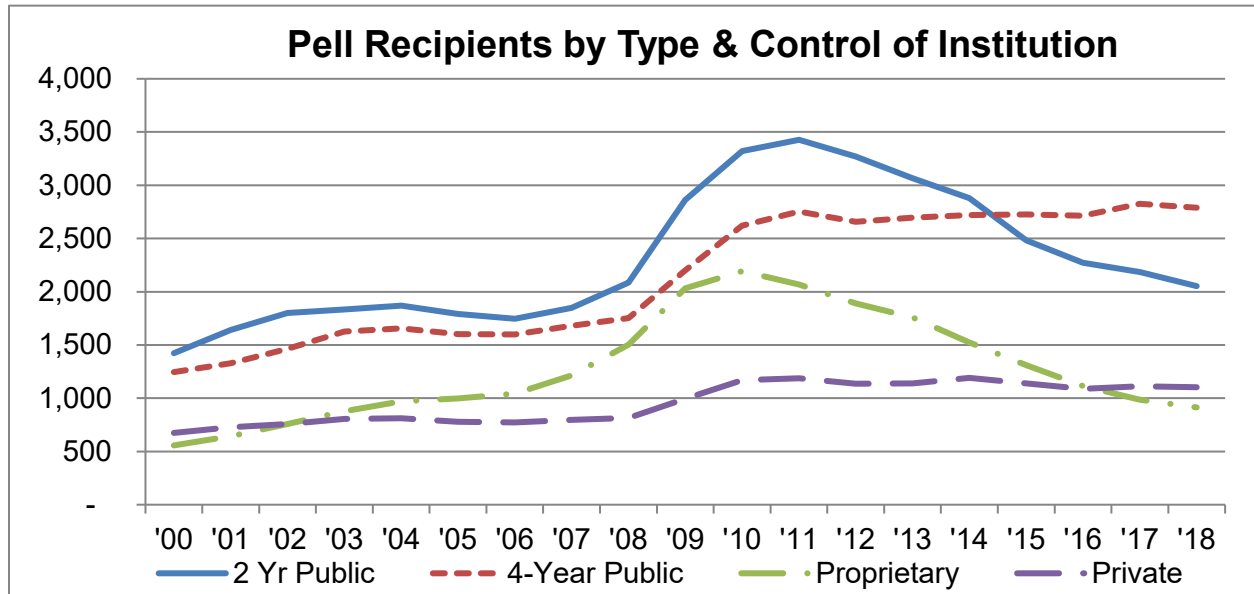
### Federal Pell Grants

Over the lifetime of the Pell Grant program, the share of Pell Grant aid to proprietary institutions has changed significantly. For example, in the 2009-2010 award year, approximately 25 percent of total Pell Grant aid went to students at proprietary institutions; in the 2018-19 award year, that figure was 14 percent.

**Distribution of Pell Grants by Type of Institution in 2018-19**

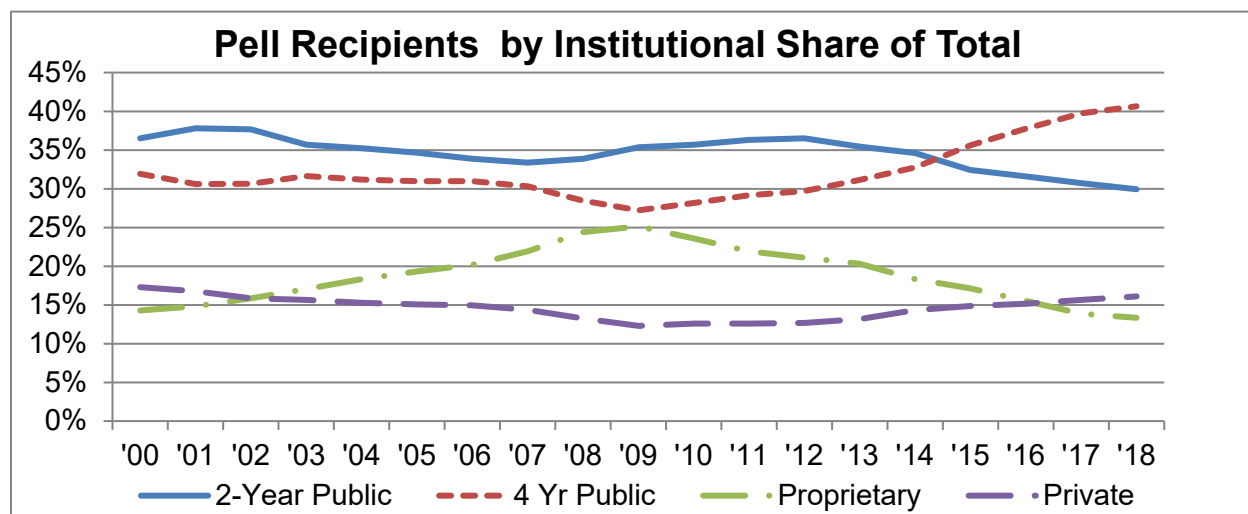
| Institution Type | Recipients       | Available Aid         | Average Award | Percent of Pell Aid |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Public 4-Year    | 2,788,686        | \$11,796,973,859      | \$4,230       | 41.5%               |
| Public 2-Year    | 2,054,150        | 8,124,838,297         | 3,955         | 28.6                |
| Private          | 1,104,211        | 4,456,780,627         | 4,036         | 15.7                |
| Proprietary      | 914,953          | 4,023,097,217         | 4,397         | 14.2                |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>6,862,000</b> | <b>28,401,690,000</b> | <b>4,139</b>  | <b>100.0</b>        |

The following two charts show, for the award years 2000-2001 to 2018-2019, total Pell recipients (in thousands) by type and control of institution; and the institutional share (percentage) of total Pell recipients.



## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Pell Grants



### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

(dollars in thousands)

| Output Measures                               | 2019         | 2020         | 2021         |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Recipients                                    | 6,673,000    | 6,834,000    | 7,086,000    |
| Aid available to students <sup>1</sup>        | \$28,246,635 | \$29,596,830 | \$30,348,169 |
| Maximum grant (in whole dollars)              | \$6,195      | \$6,345      | \$6,345      |
| Minimum grant (in whole dollars) <sup>2</sup> | \$619        | \$634        | \$634        |
| Average grant (in whole dollars)              | \$4,233      | \$4,331      | \$4,283      |

<sup>1</sup> Overall aid available reflects the estimated cost of the program minus administrative costs of \$5 per recipient.

<sup>2</sup> The minimum grant reflects the statutory minimum, but the actual minimum grant published by the Department may be slightly higher due to the calculation methodology used in the payment schedule.

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, indicators and performance data and targets; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2021 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Because the Federal Pell Grant program account relies on the same performance measures, strategies, and program improvement activities that apply to all the student financial assistance grant programs, Pell program performance is discussed in the **Student Aid Overview** and is not repeated here.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

---

### Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants

(Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 3)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2021 Authorization: 0<sup>1</sup>

Budget authority:

| <u>2020</u><br><u>Appropriation</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Request</u> | <u>Change from</u><br><u>2020 to 2021</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| \$865,000                           | 0                             | -\$865,000                                |

---

<sup>1</sup>The GEPA extension applies through September 30, 2015; reauthorizing legislation is not sought in fiscal year 2021.

---

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program provides need-based grant aid to eligible undergraduate students to help reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education. Federal funding allocations are awarded to qualifying postsecondary institutions under a statutory formula. Unlike the Pell Grant program, the SEOG program is operated by institutional financial aid administrators who have substantial flexibility in determining student awards.

The funding provided for the SEOG program is available for 2 years. Funds become available for obligation on October 1 of the fiscal year in which they are appropriated and remain available through September 30 of the following fiscal year. Funds available for the current fiscal year 2020 will be used for the 2020-21 award year, which runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Institutional participation: Roughly 3,600 postsecondary institutions receive funds under the SEOG program, compared to more than 4,500 institutions that administer Pell Grants. Under the statutory formula, funds are distributed to institutions first on the basis of the institution's fiscal year 1999 SEOG program base guarantee and pro rata share (a hold harmless basis), and then on the basis of the aggregate need of the eligible undergraduate students in attendance.

Institutional matching: Participating institutions are required by statute to contribute at least 25 percent of the SEOG award amounts. The institutional share can be met using the institution's own resources, State grants, or funds from foundations or other charitable organizations.

Student participation: Students qualify for grants of up to \$4,000 by demonstrating financial need under the need analysis formula used for Federal student aid. Institutions must give first priority for awards to students with demonstrated "exceptional need" (students with the lowest Expected Family Contributions (EFCs) at the institution) who are also Pell Grant recipients.

Remaining awards are then available for students with exceptional need who are not Pell Grant recipients. In addition, if any part of the institution's SEOG allocation determination to students is based, in part, on the financial need demonstrated by students who are independent or



## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants

---

attending the institution less-than-full-time, then a reasonable portion of the allocation must be made available to such students.

Recipients must be undergraduates, cannot have received a bachelor's degree, and must be enrolled with the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate at an eligible institution. Approximately 9 percent of undergraduates receive SEOG awards.

Recipients must also have a high school diploma (or its equivalent) or have been homeschooled. Students who did not have a high school diploma or were not homeschooled and first enrolled in an eligible program prior to July 1, 2012, may receive SEOG funds by meeting one of the ability-to-benefit (ABT) alternatives. These alternatives include: (1) passing an independently administered Department-approved ability-to-benefit test; (2) completing at least 6 credit hours or 225 clock hours that are applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by the institution; or (3) completing a State process approved by the Secretary of Education.

Students who did not have a high school diploma or were not homeschooled and first enrolled in an eligible program on or after July 1, 2012, can only become eligible through one of the ABT alternatives described above if they are enrolled in an eligible career pathway program as defined in section 484(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

Students already in default on a Federal student loan or who owe an overpayment on any other previously received Federal student aid may not receive a SEOG unless they repay the debt in full or makes satisfactory repayment arrangements.

### Institutional administrative provisions

- Administrative costs. Each institution's administrative cost allowance is based upon its expenditures for both campus-based programs (SEOG and Work-Study). An institution may use up to 5 percent of the first \$2.75 million of its program expenditures; plus up to 4 percent of expenditures greater than \$2.75 million but less than \$5.5 million; and up to 3 percent of expenditures greater than \$5.5 million during an award year to meet administrative costs associated with these programs.
- Transferability of funds. An institution may transfer up to 25 percent of Work-Study funds to SEOG. Up to 10 percent of an institution's SEOG funds may, at the discretion of the institution, be used for expenditures for the preceding fiscal year, and up to 10 percent of an institution's SEOG funds may remain available for the next fiscal year.
- Reallocation of funds. Excess funds available because of under-utilization by institutions are reallocated to other institutions in accordance with program regulations. An institution returning more than 10 percent of its allocation will have its subsequent allocation reduced by the same amount. Under The Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Education Relief Act of 2017, the Secretary was provided authority to waive reallocation rules; excess SEOG funds were reallocated to institutions that were directly affected by the 2017 hurricanes or located in disaster areas.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants

---

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

| Fiscal Year | (dollars in thousands) |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 2016.....   | \$733,130              |
| 2017.....   | 733,130                |
| 2018.....   | 840,000                |
| 2019.....   | 840,000                |
| 2020.....   | 865,000                |

### FY 2021 BUDGET REQUEST

Currently, SEOG awards are not optimally allocated based on a student's financial need, despite being a need-based program. Although the HEA requires that participating institutions give priority in awarding SEOG funds to Pell-eligible students, there is no requirement that the size of these awards be tied to the need of the student. As a result, institutions are given the discretion to provide larger SEOG awards to students who do not exhibit the greatest need. In addition, the current "hold harmless" provision distorts the allocation of funding among institutions so that certain institutions receive more funds than if the funds were solely distributed based on their students' financial need.

As shown in the tables below, the average SEOG award increased as income levels increased for families of dependent students. Furthermore, provisions in the SEOG funding allocation formula also distort the targeting of aid. For example, according to the distribution tables for Pell Grant aid presented earlier, about 70% of Pell recipients attend public 4-year or public 2-year institutions, while only 53% of SEOG funds go to these institutions. Moreover, the SEOG program is part of a complex and confusing array of federal aid programs that could benefit from simplification and better targeting of aid to needy students. In award year 2020-21, the Department of Education is expected to pay institutions more than \$15.1 million dollars to administer the SEOG program—dollars that could be better targeted directly to needy students.

The Administration's fiscal year 2021 budget request proposes to eliminate the SEOG program beginning in award year 2021-22, which would result in a savings of \$865 million compared to the 2020 appropriation.

The request for this program is best understood in the context of the Administration's proposals for the student aid programs as a whole. Accordingly, student assistance policy proposals are discussed in greater detail in the **Student Aid Overview**.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants

#### Distribution of SEOG Funds by Student Status and Income Level

The following tables (structured to compare across the programs in the Student Financial Assistance account) show the distribution of SEOG funds to dependent and independent students at various income levels in 2017-2018. These tables include the most recent distributional data available, which may not match directly with the data provided in the Program Output Measures section.

In 2017-2018, 70 percent of dependent SEOG recipients had family income levels under \$30,000 and 72 percent of independent SEOG recipients had family income levels under \$20,000.

#### Distribution of SEOG to Dependent Undergraduates in 2017-18

| Family Income Level    | Recipients     | Available Aid      | Average Award |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 0 - \$5,999            | 136,597        | \$101,842,723      | \$746         |
| \$6,000 - \$11,999     | 78,976         | 60,203,098         | 762           |
| \$12,000 - \$23,999    | 250,843        | 194,317,345        | 775           |
| \$24,001 - \$29,999    | 101,818        | 82,845,250         | 814           |
| \$30,000 +             | 238,751        | 206,787,003        | 866           |
| <b>Total Dependent</b> | <b>806,985</b> | <b>645,995,419</b> | <b>801</b>    |

#### Distribution of SEOG to Independent Undergraduates in 2017-18

| Family Income Level       | Recipients       | Available Aid        | Average Award |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 0 - \$ 1,999              | 169,612          | \$94,728,381         | \$559         |
| \$2,000 - \$ 3,999        | 41,045           | 23,573,493           | 574           |
| \$4,000 - \$ 7,999        | 84,874           | 47,199,518           | 556           |
| \$8,000 - \$11,999        | 92,747           | 48,499,999           | 523           |
| \$12,000 - \$15,999       | 59,972           | 28,586,457           | 477           |
| \$16,000 - \$19,999       | 52,130           | 24,960,713           | 479           |
| \$20,000 +                | 191,477          | 94,123,016           | 492           |
| <b>Total Independent</b>  | <b>691,857</b>   | <b>361,671,577</b>   | <b>523</b>    |
| <b>All Undergraduates</b> | <b>1,498,842</b> | <b>1,007,666,996</b> | <b>672</b>    |

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants

---

#### Distribution of SEOG Funds by Type of Institution

The distribution of SEOG assistance to institutions is controlled by a statutory formula. The distribution of SEOG across different types of institutions has remained relatively constant over time due to this formula and the base guarantee. The distribution of aid by institution type has remained relatively constant over the last 5 years.

The following table shows the distribution of SEOG to students attending different types of institutions in 2017-2018. Most funding goes to students attending public institutions.

**Distribution of SEOG by Type of Institution in 2017-18**

| <b>Institution Type</b> | <b>Recipients</b> | <b>Available Aid</b> | <b>Average Award</b> | <b>Percent of SEOG Aid</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Public 4-Year           | 504,078           | \$369,014,739        | \$732                | 36.6%                      |
| Public 2-Year           | 385,982           | 168,080,252          | 435                  | 16.7                       |
| Private                 | 344,975           | 363,655,022          | 1,054                | 36.1                       |
| Proprietary             | 263,807           | 106,916,983          | 405                  | 10.6                       |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>1,498,842</b>  | <b>1,007,666,996</b> | <b>672</b>           | <b>100.0</b>               |

#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

(dollars in thousands)

| <u>Output Measures</u>                 | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients                             | 1,718,000   | 1,769,000   | 0           |
| Aid available to students <sup>1</sup> | \$1,154,667 | \$1,189,032 | \$0         |
| Average award (in whole dollars)       | \$672       | \$672       | \$0         |

---

<sup>1</sup> Aid available includes budget authority, institutional matching funds, transfers from the Federal Work-Study program, minus administrative costs.

---

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2021 and the future as well as the resources and efforts invested by institutions.

Because the programs in the Student Financial Assistance account rely on the same performance data, performance measures, strategies, and program improvement activities that apply to all the programs, that information is discussed in the **Student Aid Overview** and is not repeated here.

## Student Financial Assistance

---

### Federal work-study

(Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part C)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2021 Authorization: To be determined<sup>1</sup>

Budget authority:

| <u>2020</u><br><u>Appropriation</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Request</u> | <u>Change from</u><br><u>2020 to 2021</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| \$1,180,000                         | \$500,000                     | -\$680,000                                |

---

<sup>1</sup>The GEPA extension applies through September 30, 2015; reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2021.

---

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program ensures access to postsecondary education and lifelong learning by assisting needy undergraduate and graduate students with financing postsecondary education costs through part-time employment. Federal funds are distributed to qualifying institutions whose financial aid administrators select eligible students with financial need for employment. Students may be employed by the institution; by a Federal, State, or local public agency or private nonprofit organization; or by a private for-profit organization.

The funding for the FWS program is available for 2 fiscal years. Funds become available for obligation on October 1 of the fiscal year in which they are appropriated and remain available through September 30 of the following fiscal year. Funds requested for fiscal year 2021 would be used for the 2021-22 award year, which runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Institutional participation: Approximately 3,200 institutions participate in the FWS program. Funds are distributed to institutions based on a statutory formula. The formula starts with the institution's fiscal year 1999 FWS program base guarantee and pro rata share and bases the allocation on the aggregate need of the eligible undergraduate students currently in attendance. The FWS program is administered by institutional financial aid administrators who have substantial flexibility in determining student awards.

If an institution is a proprietary school employing its own students, this employment must be: (1) on campus, except that at least 7 percent of the total funds granted must be used to compensate students employed in community service activities; (2) related, to the maximum extent practicable, to the student's educational objectives; and (3) related to providing student services. The employment tasks of FWS program students, however, must not involve the solicitation of potential students to enroll in the school.

Institutional matching: In general, participating institutions or other employers must contribute at least 25 percent of a student's part-time earnings (or 50 percent in the case of private-for-profit employers). The Federal share may be up to 90 percent for students employed at a private nonprofit organization or a Federal, State, or local public agency that would otherwise be unable to afford the costs of employing those students. The 90 percent Federal share is limited to no

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

---

more than 10 percent of the students paid under the FWS program; in addition, the school may not own, operate, or control the organization, and the school must select the organization or agency on a case-by-case basis.

Student participation: Students qualify for FWS program awards by demonstrating financial need under the statutory need analysis system for the Federal student financial assistance programs. Hourly earnings must not be less than the current Federal minimum wage. Approximately 5 percent of undergraduates participate in the FWS program.

In addition, if the institution's allocation is based in part on the financial need demonstrated by independent students or students attending the institution less-than-full-time, a reasonable portion of the allocation must be made available to such students.

Recipients must be enrolled with the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate at an eligible institution. Students must also have a high school diploma (or its equivalent) or have been homeschooled. Students who did not have a high school diploma or were not homeschooled and first enrolled in an eligible program prior to July 1, 2012, may receive FWS program funds by meeting one of the ability-to-benefit (ATB) alternatives. These alternatives include: (1) passing an independently administered Department-approved ability-to-benefit test; (2) completing at least 6 credit hours or 225 clock hours that are applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by the institution; or (3) completing a State process approved by the Secretary of Education.

Students who did not have a high school diploma or were not homeschooled and first enrolled in an eligible program on or after July 1, 2012, can only become eligible through one of the ATB alternatives described above if they are enrolled in an eligible career pathway program as defined in section 484(d)(2) of the HEA.

Students who have defaulted on a Federal student loan or who owe an overpayment on any other previously received Federal student aid, however, may not receive additional funds under the program unless they repay the debt in full, or make satisfactory repayment arrangements with the holder of the debt.

Institutional administrative provisions: Institutions may use their allocations to support a variety of Work-Study activities, including:

- Community service. An institution must use at least 7 percent of its Federal allocation for payments to students employed in community service activities. Other Work-Study jobs that qualify as community service activities include community-accessible childcare and assistance for disabled students. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) expanded the definition of community service to include emergency preparedness and response. The eligible institution, at its discretion, may count any contribution made by the employer toward the non-Federal share of the student's compensation.
- Tutoring and literacy activities. An institution must include at least one tutoring or family literacy project as part of its community service activities. Under this requirement, institutions prioritize employing Work-Study recipients as reading tutors in schools participating in

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

---

programs, funded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, that train educators on science-based reading instruction. In 2016-17, the last year data was collected, almost 29,000 Work-Study students were employed as reading tutors.

- Private sector. An institution may use up to 25 percent of its Work-Study allocation to match earnings of students working for private for-profit organizations. Students must, to the maximum extent practicable, be placed in jobs that are academically relevant to their course of study. FWS program funds may not be used to pay any employee who would otherwise be employed by the private organization.
- Job Location and Development. An institution may use up to 10 percent of its FWS program allocation, or a maximum of \$50,000, whichever is less, for administrative expenses associated with the establishment or expansion of a Job Location and Development (JLD) program. This program locates and develops off-campus full- or part-time jobs or community service jobs for currently enrolled students. The Federal share of the JLD program costs cannot exceed 80 percent.
- Work Colleges. A “Work College” is an institution that requires all resident students to participate in a work-learning program as an integral part of the institution’s educational philosophy. These colleges are authorized to receive special awards in addition to their regular FWS program allocations to support such programs. Work Colleges must match Federal allocations on a dollar-for-dollar basis. In addition, Work Colleges may transfer all their regular FWS program allotments for use under the Work Colleges program.
- Administrative costs. Each institution’s administrative cost allowance is based upon its expenditures for FWS and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). Under a statutory formula, an institution may use up to 5 percent of the first \$2.75 million of its program expenditures; plus up to 4 percent of expenditures greater than \$2.75 million but less than \$5.5 million; and up to 3 percent of expenditures greater than \$5.5 million during an award year to meet administrative costs associated with these programs.
- Transferability of funds. An institution may transfer up to 25 percent of its allocation from FWS to SEOG. Up to 10 percent of an institution’s FWS program funds may, at the discretion of the institution, be used for expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. In addition, up to 10 percent of an institution’s FWS program funds may, at the discretion of the institution, remain available for the next fiscal year.
- Reallocation. If funds become available because of under-utilization by institutions, excess funds are reallocated only to other institutions that used at least 5 percent of their FWS program allocations to compensate students employed in tutoring in reading and family literacy activities in the preceding year. Reallocated funds must be used to support student employment in community service activities. Under the Hurricane Education Relief Act of 2017, excess FWS were first allocated to institutions located in FEMA-declared disaster areas, and then to institutions that enrolled a significant number of students that live in the FEMA-declared disaster areas.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

---

- Disasters. The HEOA added a provision under which an eligible institution located in an area affected by a major disaster, as determined by the Secretary, may make FWS payments to disaster-affected students, for the period of time (not to exceed 1 academic year) in which the students were prevented from fulfilling their FWS obligations due to the disaster. Payment may be made in an amount equal to or less than the amount a student would have been paid had the student been able to complete the work obligation necessary to receive Work-Study funds. The Hurricane Education Relief Act of 2017 provided the Secretary authority to waive reallocation rules and to extend the deadline by which funds were reallocated in the campus-based programs due to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

| Fiscal Year | (dollars in thousands) |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 2016.....   | \$989,728              |
| 2017.....   | 989,728                |
| 2018.....   | 1,130,000              |
| 2019.....   | 1,130,000              |
| 2020.....   | 1,180,000              |

### FY 2021 BUDGET REQUEST

For fiscal year 2021, the Administration requests \$500 million for the FWS program, \$680 million less than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation. The request would significantly reform the program from a model that mostly provides subsidized employment as a form of financial aid for higher income undergraduate and graduate students to one that supports workforce and career-oriented training opportunities for low-income undergraduate students. The request will generate nearly \$504.4 million in available aid to support more than 315,000 career-oriented jobs for students, helping to meet the educational costs of undergraduate students and expand their future employment prospects.

Under the proposal, institutions could fund individual students through subsidized employment, paid internships, or other placements without limitation on the type of organization where the placement occurs, provided they are career or academically relevant. Institutions would also have greater flexibility to fund programs or initiatives serving multiple students – similar to the current Job Location and Development authority – that could provide exposure to, build preparedness for, and help place students in career-relevant jobs and internships. The fiscal year 2021 request would also reform the allocation formula to focus scarce funds on institutions enrolling high numbers of Pell Grant recipients, while providing these students with access to employment that provides the training and skills to meet the needs of today’s workforce. As shown in the tables below, among dependent students, those with family incomes at or above \$30,000 received 70 percent of FWS funds compared to 30 percent of FWS funds going to students with family incomes below \$30,000. For Pell Grants, these numbers are nearly reversed: Among dependent students, 63 percent of aid goes to students with family incomes below \$30,000 and 37 percent to those above. Independent students, who typically have lower



## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

---

family incomes, received 48 percent of all Pell Grant aid, but only received 16 percent of FWS funds.

The Administration is also testing certain FWS reforms using the Higher Education Act (HEA) experimental site authority<sup>1</sup>. The current FWS experiment will provide participating postsecondary institutions with waivers of statutory and regulatory provisions to test how changes to FWS will increase partnerships between institutions and industry, improve student retention and completion, reduce student debt levels, and yield strong post-graduation employment outcomes.

The fiscal year 2021 request for this program is best understood in the context of the Administration's proposals for the student aid programs as a whole. Accordingly, policy proposals are discussed in greater detail in the **Student Aid Overview**.

### Distribution of Work-Study Funds by Student Status and Income Level

The following tables (structured to provide a common basis of comparison among the programs in the Student Financial Assistance account) illustrate the distribution of Work-Study funds to dependent students and the distribution to independent students at various income levels for 2017-2018. These tables include the most recent distributional data available, which may not correspond directly with the data provided in the Program Output Measures section.

#### Distribution of Work-Study to Dependent Undergraduates in 2017-18

| Income Level           | Recipients     | Available Aid      | Average Award |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 0 - \$5,999            | 35,301         | \$62,874,853       | \$1,781       |
| \$6,000 - \$11,999     | 21,105         | 37,891,851         | 1,795         |
| \$12,000 - \$23,999    | 67,355         | 122,594,452        | 1,820         |
| \$24,001 - \$29,999    | 32,246         | 58,030,606         | 1,800         |
| \$30,000 +             | 329,787        | 535,350,519        | 1,623         |
| <b>Total Dependent</b> | <b>485,794</b> | <b>816,742,281</b> | <b>1,681</b>  |

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/052019PubofFRFWSEXPUnderExpSitesInitiative.html>

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

#### Distribution of Work-Study to Independent Undergraduates and Graduates in 2017-18

| Income Level             | Recipients     | Available Aid          | Average Award  |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 0 - \$ 1,999             | 24,555         | \$49,372,003           | \$2,011        |
| \$2,000 - \$ 3,999       | 6,939          | 13,927,936             | 2,007          |
| \$4,000 - \$ 7,999       | 12,078         | 25,830,188             | 2,139          |
| \$8,000 - \$11,999       | 10,228         | 22,769,841             | 2,226          |
| \$12,000 - \$15,999      | 7,558          | 16,489,168             | 2,182          |
| \$16,000 - \$19,999      | 5,232          | 11,160,267             | 2,133          |
| \$20,000 +               | 16,366         | 32,556,330             | 1,989          |
| <b>Total Independent</b> | <b>82,081</b>  | <b>\$172,450,457</b>   | <b>\$2,101</b> |
| <b>Graduate Students</b> | <b>44,751</b>  | <b>109,962,619</b>     | <b>2,457</b>   |
| <b>All Students</b>      | <b>612,626</b> | <b>\$1,099,155,357</b> | <b>\$1,794</b> |

#### Distribution of Work-Study Funds by Type of Institution:

The Work-Study program is a campus-based program, and the distribution of funds to institutions is controlled by a statutory formula. As a result, the distribution of Work-Study assistance across different types of institutions has remained relatively constant over time. The table below shows the distribution of Work-Study to students attending different types of institutions in 2017-2018.

#### Distribution of Federal Work-Study (FWS) by Type of Institution in 2017-18

| Institution Type | Recipients     | Available Aid        | Average Award | Percent of FWS Aid |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Public 4-Year    | 218,090        | \$422,754,038        | \$1,938       | 38.5%              |
| Public 2-Year    | 62,950         | 138,826,869          | 2,205         | 12.6               |
| Private          | 316,282        | 499,592,140          | 1,580         | 45.5               |
| Proprietary      | 15,304         | 37,982,310           | 2,482         | 3.5                |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>612,626</b> | <b>1,099,155,357</b> | <b>1,794</b>  | <b>100.0</b>       |

NOTE: Percentages may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

#### Community Service Activities:

The Work-Study program has a long tradition of providing opportunities for students to perform community service activities. At least 7 percent of an institution's Work-Study allotment must be used to pay students employed in community service jobs, unless the institution obtains a waiver from the Department. Nationally, 16 percent of Work-Study funds are used for jobs in community service.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

---

Participating colleges and universities must ensure that at least one eligible project provides services to both children and their parents. Allowable activities, such as family literacy programs, emphasize preparing parents to read to their own children.

The Department has waived the usual 25 percent institutional contribution, allowing Work-Study funds to pay up to 100 percent of the wages to support students who tutor children in mathematics, or reading, or who serve in family literacy programs.

### Distribution of Work-Study Funds to Students in Community Service Activities:

The table below shows the distribution of Work-Study assistance to students employed in community service activities in 2017-2018.

**Distribution of Work-Study to Students in Community Service Activities by Type of Institution in 2017-18**

| Institution Type | Recipients     | Available Aid      | Average Award | Percent of WS Aid |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Public 4-Year    | 36,356         | 69,792,051         | 1,920         | 39.9%             |
| Public 2-Year    | 28,374         | 26,949,627         | 950           | 15.4              |
| Private          | 49,459         | 73,706,147         | 1,490         | 42.1              |
| Proprietary      | 2,261          | 4,448,112          | 1,967         | 2.5               |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>116,450</b> | <b>174,895,937</b> | <b>1,502</b>  | <b>100.0</b>      |

NOTE: Percentages may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

(dollars in thousands)

| <u>Output Measures</u>                 | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients                             | 700,000     | 731,000     | 315,000     |
| Aid available to students <sup>1</sup> | \$1,152,402 | \$1,203,831 | \$504,393   |
| Average award (in whole dollars)       | \$1,647     | \$1,647     | \$1,709     |

---

<sup>1</sup> Aid available includes budget authority, institutional matching funds, transfers from the SEOG program, minus administrative costs.

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal work study

---

progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in 2021 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Because the programs in the Student Financial Assistance account rely on the same performance data, performance measures, strategies, and program improvement activities that apply to all the programs, that information is discussed in the **Student Aid Overview** and is not repeated here.

**STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

---

**Iraq and Afghanistan service grants**

(Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 10)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2021 Authorization: 0

Mandatory Budget Authority:

| <u>2020</u><br><u>Appropriation</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Request</u> | <u>Change from</u><br><u>2020 to 2021</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| \$463                               | 0                             | -\$463                                    |

---

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants (IASG) program provides non-need-based grants to students whose parent or guardian was a member of the Armed Forces who died in Iraq or Afghanistan as a result of performing military service after September 11, 2001. Students are not required to be eligible for a Pell Grant in order to receive a Service Grant; however, the student must be 24 years old or younger; or, if older than 24, must have been enrolled in an institution of higher education at the time of the parent or guardian’s death.

Service Grants are equal to the maximum Pell Grant for a given award year, which was \$6,195 in the 2019-20 award year. However, due to sequestration, IASG award amounts have been reduced in prior years and are subject to sequestration in the current year. Award amounts for any IASG first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2019, and before Oct. 1, 2020, will be reduced by 5.9 percent, or \$366 for a student receiving the maximum award. Thus far, 246 students have lost approximately \$170,000 due to sequestration. Service Grants are excluded from the total “estimated financial assistance” used to determine a student’s eligibility for other Title IV Federal financial aid. In combination with other student aid, however, the Service Grant may not result in a student’s awards exceeding their cost of attendance. As with Pell Grant eligibility, students are limited to 12 semesters of full-time enrollment.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

| Fiscal Year | (dollars in thousands) |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 2016.....   | \$384                  |
| 2017.....   | 373                    |
| 2018.....   | 329                    |
| 2019.....   | 403                    |
| 2020.....   | 463                    |

**FY 2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

The Administration’s budget request for fiscal year 2021 proposes to move the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant program into the Pell Grant program. The children of our fallen service members deserve a full aid award, not to have nearly \$400 cut from their award each

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Iraq and Afghanistan service grants

year. They should be treated equally to students receiving Pell Grants, which are exempt from cuts due to sequestration. This proposal would not make any other changes to the program's benefits or eligibility. The first IASG recipient awards were given in award year 2010-2011 to fewer than 1,000 recipients.

#### **Distribution of Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Funds by Type of Institution:**

The data provided in the table below shows the distribution of Iraq and Afghanistan service grants to students attending different types of institutions in award year 2017-2018.

**Distribution of IASG by Type of Institution in 2018-19**

| <b>Institution Type</b> | <b>Recipients</b> | <b>Available Aid</b> | <b>Average Award</b> | <b>Percent of IASG Aid</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Public 4-Year           | 45                | \$245,523            | \$5,487              | 62%                        |
| Public 2-Year           | 9                 | 33,848               | 3,877                | 9                          |
| Private                 | 22                | 113,565              | 5,203                | 29                         |
| Proprietary             | 0                 | 0                    | 0                    | 0                          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>76</b>         | <b>392,936</b>       | <b>5,218</b>         | <b>100</b>                 |

### **PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES**

(dollars in thousands)

| <u>Output Measures</u>  | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Recipients  | (1)         | (1)         | 0           |
| Aid available to students (dollars in thousands) <sup>2</sup> | \$445       | \$523       | \$0         |
| Maximum grant (whole dollars) <sup>3</sup>                    | \$5,829     | \$6,345     | \$0         |
| Average grant (whole dollars)                                 | \$5,300     | \$5,626     | \$0         |

<sup>1</sup>Recipients estimated to number fewer than 500.

<sup>2</sup>Aid available is the amount of funding available for new IASG awards to students in any single academic year. This amount differs from budget authority because 1 fiscal year spans across 2 academic years. For instance, total aid available in FY 2020 is comprised of portions of both academic year 2019-2020 (ending June 30) and 2020-21 (beginning July 1). Amount of aid available in 2021 reflects Budget policy to move IASG to the Pell Grant program. In 2021, aid available is estimated to be \$599 thousand.

<sup>3</sup>Maximum grant amounts for 2019 reflect impact of sequestration. The amount of the maximum grant in 2021 reflects Budget policy to move IASG to the Pell Grant Program.

### **PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the

## STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### **Iraq and Afghanistan service grants**

---

progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in 2021 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Because the programs in the Student Financial Assistance account rely on the same performance data, when available, the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants performance measures, strategies, and program improvement activities will be discussed in the **Student Aid Overview** and not repeated here.