

# The Truth About: The Ohio College Opportunity Grant



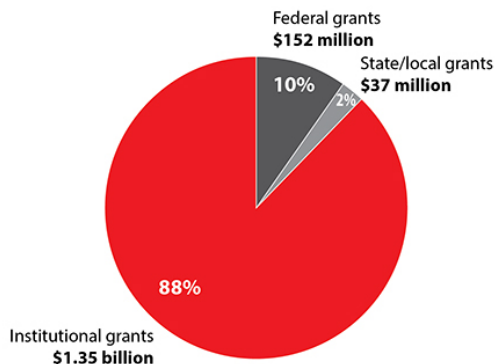
## Ohio is in Last Place

Ohio ranks in the bottom quarter nationally in providing need-based aid and is **last** in the Midwest. Even states like Michigan, which were hit significantly harder by the 2008 recession, are doing more to help their neediest students obtain a degree. The availability of state need-based aid is proven to increase degree attainment among students with the the lowest incomes. In order to move ahead, Ohio must help its neediest students obtain a degree.

## Supporting Our Own Students

At Ohio independents, about 90% of student aid grant dollars come from the college or university itself.

Student aid grants by source at AICUO members, 2015-16



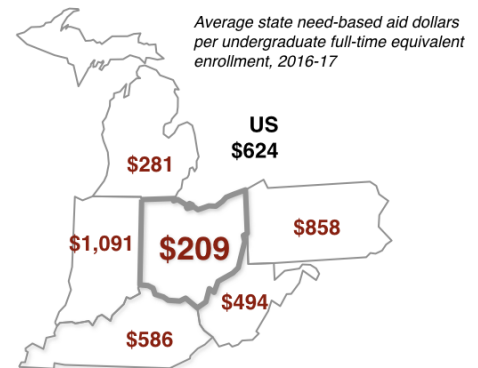
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

## A Proven Return to the State

In a time of limited budget resources, investing in need-based financial aid is a wise use of state dollars. Obtaining a bachelor's degree is the key to economic security, and **low-income students are more likely to graduate from Ohio's independent colleges.** Investing in low-income students at Ohio independent colleges is a proven investment that pays the state back in increased tax dollars and decreased use of social services.

## Ohio Still Lowest in the Region in Need-Based Student Aid

Since NASSGAP's first ranking of states in 2011-12, Ohio has offered the region's least need-based aid.



source: National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs: "48th Annual Survey"

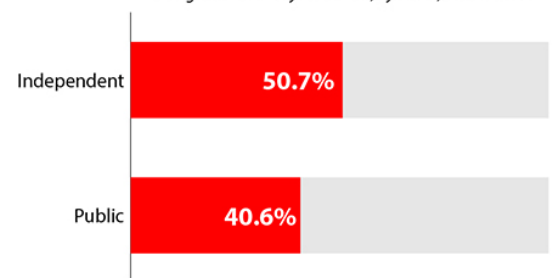
## Skin in the Game

AICUO schools have nearly doubled the school-based financial aid given to their students over the last eleven years, reaching over **\$1 billion** invested in college affordability. Nearly 90% of the aid that a student receives at an independent college comes from the college itself. This dedication to college affordability is working as undergraduate student borrowing continues to fall across the country.

## Students With Need

More likely to graduate at an Ohio independent

Percentage of initial Pell Grant recipients at Ohio 4-year colleges and universities who graduated in 6 years or less, by sector, 2011 cohort



Source: National Center for Education Statistics