

2017-18 NSHE FINANCIAL AID REPORT



PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
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2017-18 NSHE FINANCIAL AID REPORT

Introduction

The mission of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is to provide higher education services to the citizens of the State. The NSHE Board of Regents and its eight institutions strive to ensure that no student is denied a college education due to an inability to afford the cost of attendance. The cost of attending college is out of reach for many students and families in Nevada, and financial aid plays a critical role in bridging this gap.

In 2017, the Board of Regents adopted strategic goals aimed at improving Nevada's public higher education system: *Access* (increase participation in post-secondary education); *Success* (increase student success); *Close the Achievement Gap* (close the achievement gap among underserved populations); *Workforce* (collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada); and *Research* (co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile). A strong financial aid system is an essential component in ensuring NSHE's students and institutions progress toward the Board's strategic goals of *Access*, *Success* and *Close the Achievement Gap*. In order to monitor and measure progress in available financial aid programs, NSHE System Administration produces this annual financial aid report. The information provided in this report is critical for monitoring the impact of financial aid on the strategic goals of the Board of Regents.

Executive Summary

During 2017-18 financial aid disbursements to NSHE students Systemwide totaled \$622.6 million, an increase of 5.7 percent over the prior year, when disbursements totaled \$588.9 million. Looking over a longer period, between 2013-14 and 2017-18 total aid disbursed to NSHE students saw an 8.3 percent increase. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Nevada State College (NSC) and Great Basin College (GBC) all saw an overall increase of disbursed financial aid in 2017-18 over the prior year, while the remaining three institutions experienced a decrease. Just as in past years, in 2017-18 loans comprised the largest proportion (43.8 percent) of aid disbursed at NSHE institutions, but the figure did fall by approximately \$0.5 million from 2016-17. Grants saw the greatest one-year increase (13.7 percent), while scholarships saw the greatest increase over five years (52.0 percent). The remaining two categories also increased over the prior year: student employment at 6.1 percent and grants-in-aid at 5.3 percent.

Of growing importance to NSHE students over the last several years, the Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) program continues to comprise a greater percentage of Nevada state financial assistance to students than the merit-based Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program, Nevada's largest formal state-wide financial aid program (50.1 percent versus 29.9 percent). NSHE campuses continue to gradually increase their tuition set-aside for financial aid as required by the Board of Regents policy approved in April 2010 mandating a goal for increased allocations to student financial assistance. This policy establishes target amounts to be achieved by 2022-23, requiring the distribution of at least 10 percent of the total registration fee to be dedicated to student financial assistance at the community colleges (lower division) and at least 15 percent of the total registration fee to be dedicated to student financial assistance for all other institutions (including upper-division at the community colleges), net the amounts distributed to other fee categories (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 8). Likewise, both the Governor

Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) and the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) programs experienced growth in this reporting period. Beginning in 2017-18 the Nevada Legislature doubled the SSOG allocation, from \$2.5 million to \$5.0 million annually, while legislative changes made to the GGMS program during 2015 Legislative Session, combined with an increase in the number of eligible high school graduates, resulted in the second year of substantial increases in disbursements from that program.

These changes, paired with a more modest overall increase in federal disbursements, resulted in a decrease in the percentage of federal aid as a portion of all aid awarded to NSHE students, from 66 percent in 2016-17 to 64 percent in 2017-18, the same as the national percentage. At the same time, in 2017-18 just over two-thirds of grant aid to NSHE students continued to come from federal sources (Figure 4). This is a decrease of five percentage points over 2016-17, still more than twice as high as the national percentage calculated by The College Board (32 percent; *Trends in Student Aid 2018*). As Nevada's institutional and state financial assistance programs continue to grow, and with the advent of the Nevada Promise Scholarship in 2018-19, the balance between state and federal grant aid has begun to shift. However, due to the size of the federal grant programs—disbursements to students at all seven NSHE institutions in federal grants (chiefly Pell) totaled \$126.6 million in 2017-18—such a shift is expected to be incremental, rather than dramatic.

As mentioned previously, loans again made up the largest portion (43.8 percent) of financial aid disbursed to NSHE students in 2017-18. This has been a long-term trend, both in Nevada and across the nation. This is because loans continue to be one of the primary options for students to fill gaps in covering the full cost of attendance, and, for some students, loans are the only way to finance higher education. Of course, the drawback to student loans is the debt burden after graduation. Loans are particularly burdensome for those students who do not graduate and therefore carry additional debt without a higher income. On the other hand, there is some good news in terms of borrowing by NSHE students: in 2017-18 total loan disbursements dropped for the third consecutive year. Although the decrease was small (approximately \$0.5 million, 0.2 percent), combined with larger reductions in the prior two years as well as increases in other aid categories, this signals the beginning of a positive trend.

The number of NSHE students filing a FAFSA continued to fluctuate, increasing slightly in 2017-18 over the prior year by 713 students, after decreasing by 3,517 students (4.7 percent) between 2015-16 and 2016-17. At the same time, the percentage of all NSHE students Systemwide who filed a FAFSA and were funded with at least one form of financial aid remained fairly steady in the lower 40 percent range. It can be difficult to pinpoint the exact reason for the fluctuating number of FAFSA filers due to the process of applying for financial aid. Simply filling out the FAFSA is not the only step to receiving financial aid. For many students, institutions are unable to certify eligibility because they have failed to turn in required documents, while others who complete the process are eligible only for student loans and choose not to take them.

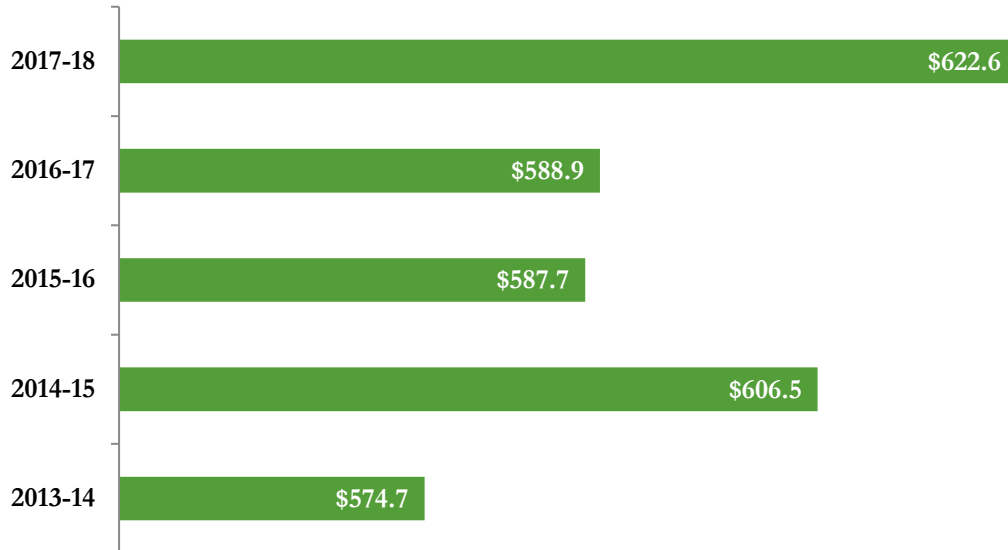
Methodology

The *2017-18 NSHE Financial Aid Report* includes information on the amount of financial assistance provided to students attending institutions within NSHE. The data in this report are provided by the financial aid directors at each NSHE institution. Each fall, institutions submit data for each financial aid program administered in the prior year. In addition to that information, trend analyses are conducted on a rolling five-year period. Comparisons to national data are made where appropriate, with source citations.

NSHE Total Financial Aid

The total amount of financial aid disbursed to NSHE students increased by \$33.7 million over the prior year, from \$588.9 million in 2016-17 to \$622.6 million in 2017-18 (5.7 percent; Figure 1). Looking back over the most recent five-year period, total financial aid disbursements increased by \$47.9 million (8.3 percent).

Figure 1 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed
(in millions)



Just as in 2016-17, the universities, NSC and GBC experienced an overall increase in total aid disbursed over the prior year. NSC, at 13.6 percent, experienced the greatest one-year increase, and UNR the greatest five-year increase, at 25.8 percent (Table 1). The decreases at the three other community colleges can be explained by a reduction in Pell Grant disbursements, federal loan disbursements, enrollment or all three. To combat loan default, campuses have continued proactive procedures to encourage educated, conservative borrowing by students.

Table 1 – NSHE Total Aid Disbursed by Institution
(in millions)

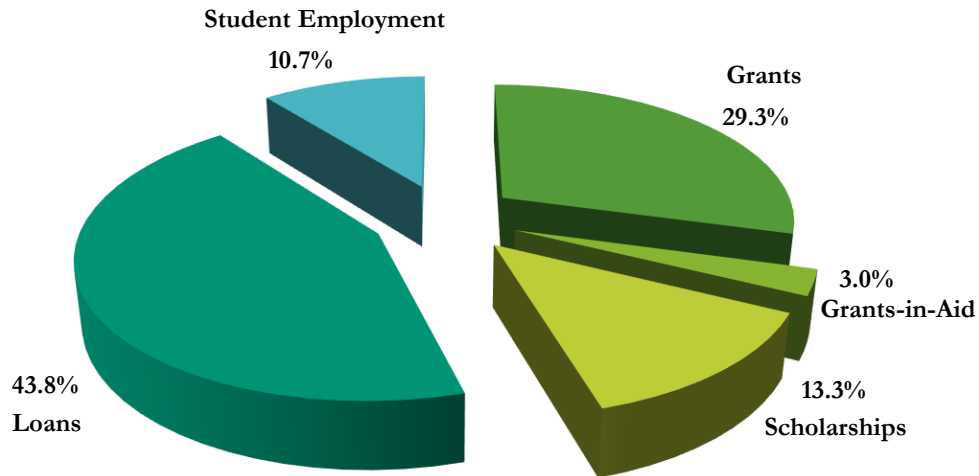
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
UNLV	\$240.4	\$248.6	\$256.1	\$263.4	\$281.7	7.0%	17.2%
UNR	\$166.1	\$178.1	\$188.0	\$194.3	\$208.9	7.5%	25.8%
NSC	\$20.2	\$20.6	\$20.5	\$20.9	\$23.8	13.6%	17.6%
CSN	\$98.9	\$113.7	\$81.8	\$74.1	\$73.7	-0.5%	-25.4%
GBC	\$6.4	\$6.0	\$6.4	\$6.6	\$7.1	6.7%	10.8%
TMCC	\$27.8	\$26.1	\$23.8	\$21.1	\$19.3	-8.4%	-30.6%
WNC	\$14.9	\$13.4	\$11.1	\$8.5	\$8.1	-5.2%	-46.0%
Total	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	5.7%	8.3%

Note: Percent calculations are based on actual—not rounded—figures, and therefore may differ if using the rounded figure only.

NSHE Financial Aid by Category

In 2017-18 the distribution of total aid by category (Figure 2) presented a picture similar to prior years. In comparison, for 2016-17 loans comprised 46.4 percent of total; student employment 10.6 percent; grants 27.2 percent; grants-in-aid 3.0 percent; and scholarships 12.8 percent.

Figure 2 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category
2017-18 Percent Distribution



In 2017-18 the greatest increase over the prior year was in the grants category, at 13.7 percent (Table 2). Notably, the scholarship category has seen an increase every year for more than the last five award years and the increase over the most recent five-year period was 52.0 percent; this signals the continued recovery of scholarship programs after a substantial decrease between 2010-11 and 2011-12. All other categories showed an increase over the prior year, with the exception of loans, which remained level compared to the prior year. By the same token, all categories but loans showed an increase over 2013-14.

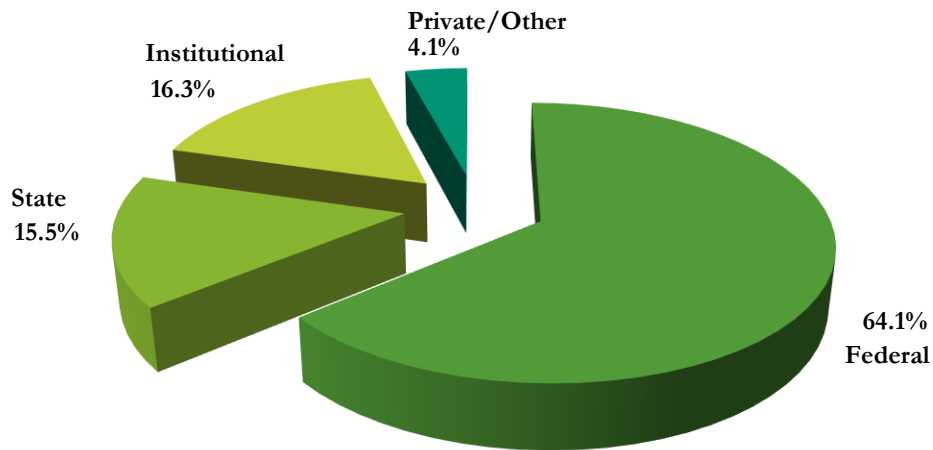
Table 2 – NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category
(in millions)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants	\$161.1	\$172.7	\$165.2	\$160.3	\$182.4	13.7%	13.2%
Grants-in-Aid	\$17.9	\$18.9	\$16.8	\$17.5	\$18.4	5.3%	2.4%
Scholarships	\$54.3	\$61.3	\$70.4	\$75.1	\$82.5	9.8%	52.0%
Loans	\$285.5	\$297.5	\$275.4	\$273.4	\$272.9	-0.2%	-4.4%
Student Employment	\$55.9	\$56.2	\$59.9	\$62.6	\$66.4	6.1%	18.7%
Total	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	5.7%	8.3%

NSHE Financial Aid by Source

The distribution of total aid by source in 2017-18 (Figure 3) was also similar to the prior year; however, the percentage of aid from federal sources continued to decline for the fourth consecutive year, from 71% in 2014-15 to 64.1% in 2017-18. This decrease was offset mainly by an increased share of aid coming from institutional sources, although both state and private showed small increases as well. In 2016-17, federal sources accounted for the majority of all aid disbursed to NSHE students, at 66.0 percent; state sources accounted for 14.9 percent; institutional, 14.7 percent; and private/other, 4.4 percent.

Figure 3 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
2017-18 Percent Distribution



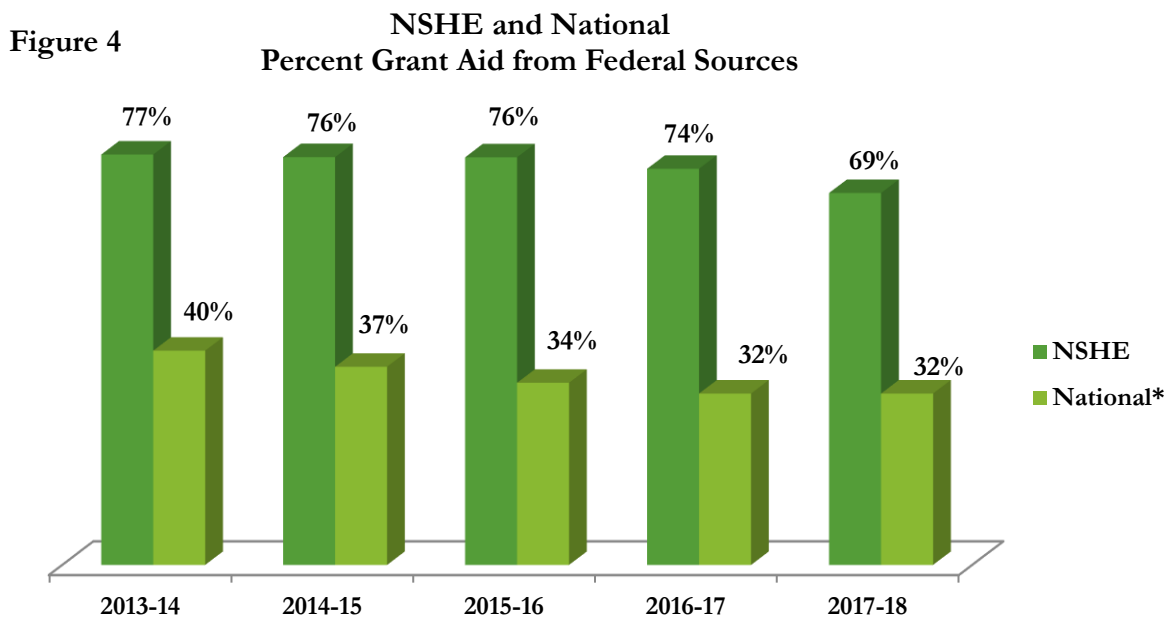
When considering NSHE total aid disbursed in 2017-18 by source, both the greatest five-year and one-year percentage increases came from institutional sources (Table 3). In comparison, in 2016-17 the greatest five-year percentage increase came from state sources (27.0 percent), while the greatest one-year increase came from institutional sources (8.5 percent). Nearly all of the ongoing increase in institutional aid—\$14.9 million between 2016-17 and 2017-18—is attributable to an increase in Regents Higher Education Opportunity Awards (RHEOA), funded by a Board-mandated tuition set-aside at each of the NSHE campuses and awarded primarily as grants (see Page 18 for additional details on the RHEOA disbursements).

Table 3 – NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
(in millions)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Federal	405.6	428.4	398.5	388.7	398.9	2.6%	-1.7%
State	74.6	76.2	85.7	87.7	96.3	9.8%	29.0%
Institutional	72.8	78.2	79.4	86.7	101.6	17.2%	39.6%
Private/Other	21.7	23.8	24.1	25.8	25.8	0.3%	19.0%
Total	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	5.7%	8.3%

NSHE campuses continue to gradually increase their tuition set-aside for financial aid as required by the Board of Regents policy approved in April 2010 mandating a goal for increased allocations to student financial assistance. This policy establishes target amounts to be achieved by 2022-23, requiring the distribution of at least 10 percent of the total registration fee to be dedicated to student financial assistance at the community colleges (lower division) and at least 15 percent of the total registration fee to be dedicated to student financial assistance for all other institutions (including upper-division at the community colleges), net the amounts distributed to other fee categories (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 8). Likewise, both the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) and the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) programs experienced growth in this reporting period. Beginning in 2017-18 the Nevada Legislature doubled the SSOG allocation, from \$2.5 million to \$5.0 million annually, while legislative changes made to the GGMS program during 2015 Legislative Session, combined with an increase in the number of eligible high school graduates, resulted in the second year of substantial increases in disbursements from that program.

These changes, paired with a more modest overall increase in federal disbursements, resulted in a decrease in the percentage of federal aid as a portion of all aid awarded to NSHE students, from 66 percent in 2016-17 to 64 percent in 2017-18, the same as the national percentage. At the same time, in 2017-18 just over two-thirds of grant aid to NSHE students continued to come from federal sources (Figure 4). This is a decrease of five percentage points over 2016-17, yet it is still over twice as high as the national percentage calculated by The College Board (32 percent; *Trends in Student Aid 2018*). As Nevada’s institutional and state financial assistance programs continue to grow, and with the advent of the Nevada Promise Scholarship in 2018-19, the balance between state and federal grant aid has begun to shift. However, due to the size of the federal grant programs—disbursements to students at all seven NSHE institutions in federal grants (chiefly Pell) totaled \$126.6 million in 2017-18—such a shift is expected to be incremental, rather than dramatic.

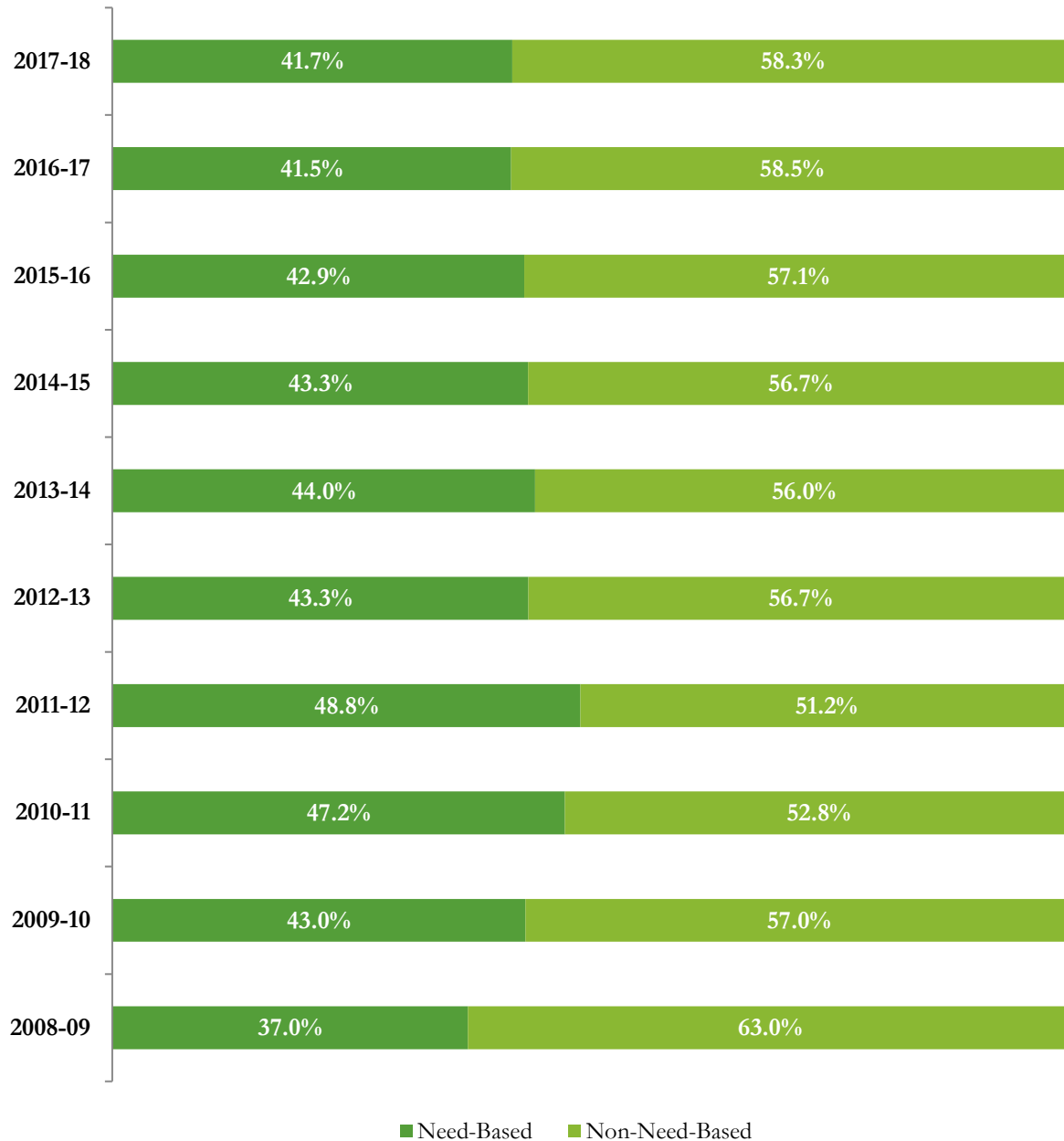


* College Board, *Trends in Student Aid, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018*.

NSHE Financial Aid by Type

After three years of decreases, the proportion of need-based aid versus non-need-based aid awarded to NSHE students seems to have stabilized (Figure 5). Without a large influx of need-based dollars, it is unlikely the balance will shift dramatically in the future, even with the advent of the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program as it will be offset in future years by the non-need based, last-dollar Nevada Promise Scholarship program. This, as noted above, is due to the size of the total existing programs. In 2017-18 all need-based disbursements to NSHE students totaled \$259.5 million and non-need disbursements totaled \$363.1 million (for detailed data, see Appendix A).

Figure 5 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Type
2008-09 to 2017-18 Percent Distribution



NSHE Pell Grants

According to The College Board, Pell Grant disbursements in 2017-18 accounted for \$28.2 billion in aid to 7.2 million students nationwide. (*Trends in Student Aid 2018*).

For two consecutive years, between 2014-15 and 2016-17, both the number of NSHE students receiving a Pell Grant and the total dollars disbursed to NSHE students decreased, but these numbers rebounded in 2017-18. Total dollars disbursed increased from \$114.8 million in 2016-17 to \$123.7 million in 2017-18 (Figure 6), and recipients increased over the same period, from 33,577 to 34,501 (Figure 7).

Figure 6 NSHE Total Pell Grant Disbursements
(in millions)

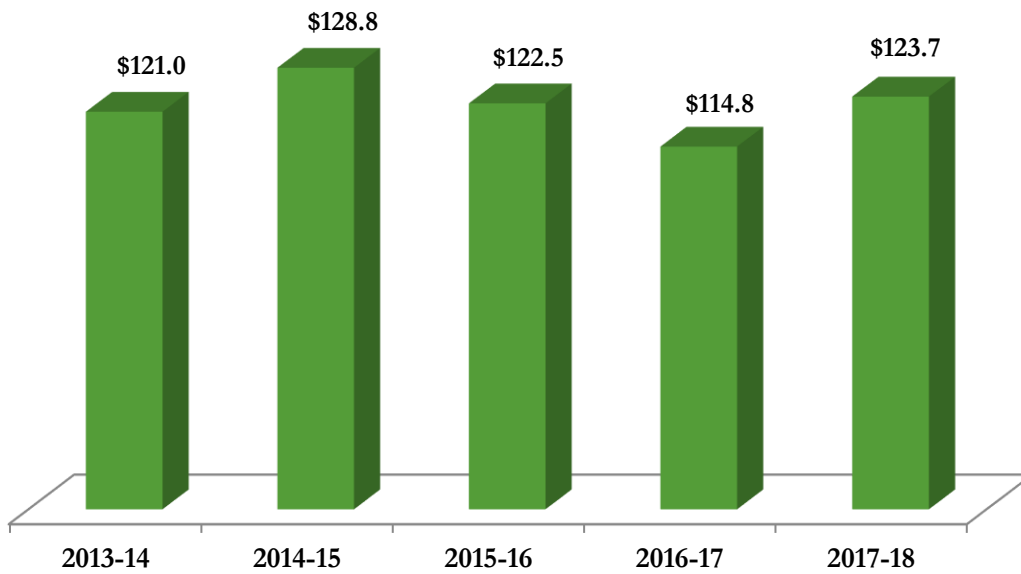
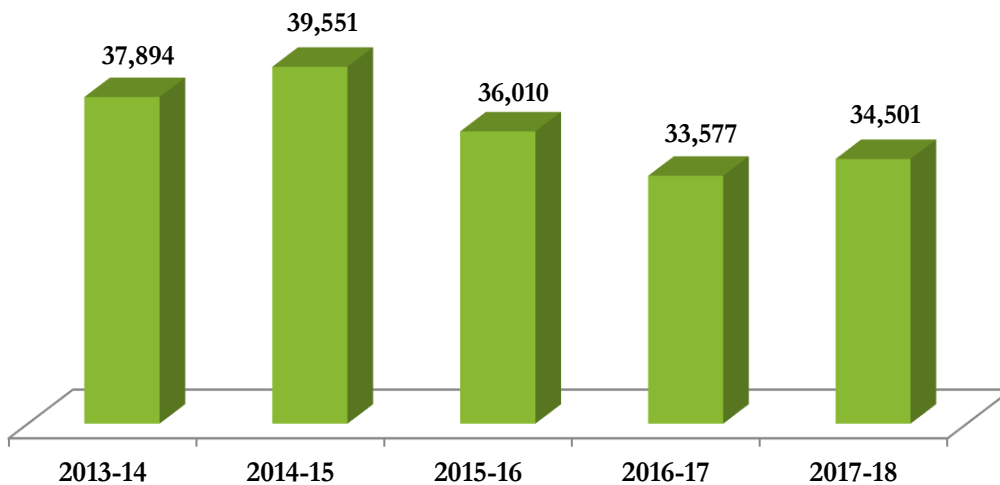


Figure 7 NSHE Total Pell Grant Recipients

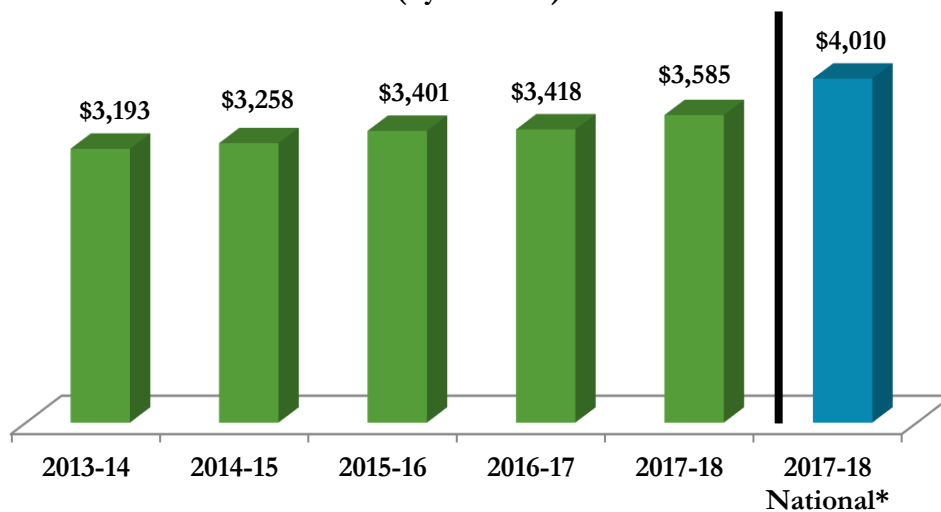


As detailed by the College Board in its 2018 publication of *Trends in Student Aid*, the maximum award amount in the Pell Grant program varies over time, especially when adjusted for inflation: “the \$5,920 maximum Pell Grant in 2017-18 was 44 percent higher in inflation-adjusted dollars than it was 20 years earlier, but only five percent higher than it was 40 years earlier, in 1977-78.”

Notably, while the Pell Grant is often discussed in terms of the maximum award, the average student award is lower than the maximum for both NSHE students and nationally (Figure 8). In 2017-18, the maximum annual Pell Grant award increased to \$5,920 from \$5,820 the prior year. In order to be eligible for the maximum award, students must attend full-time (at least 12 credits per semester) and must have a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC), as calculated by the federal government and based on student FAFSA data. Having a zero EFC essentially means that the family has no financial resources to contribute toward the student’s Cost of Attendance (COA). Students with a zero EFC who enroll in less than twelve credits receive a prorated award, generally at 75 percent, 50 percent or 25 percent of the maximum. Students who have an EFC greater than 0 may still qualify for Pell, but receive less than the maximum award, even if they attend full-time.

Effective for the 2017-18 Award Year, “Summer Pell” was reinstated, essentially allowing students to receive up to 150% (or three semesters) of their calculated Pell Grant award per year. For example, a student with a calculated award of \$5,000 enrolled full-time in fall and spring would receive \$2,500 for each semester and still be eligible for up to an additional \$2,500 for summer, if enrolled full-time, or \$1,250 if enrolled half-time (six credits). Along with the increase in the maximum Pell award, summer Pell most likely contributed to the increase in the average award to NSHE students (Figure 8).

Figure 8 NSHE Average Annual Pell Grant Disbursements (by Student)

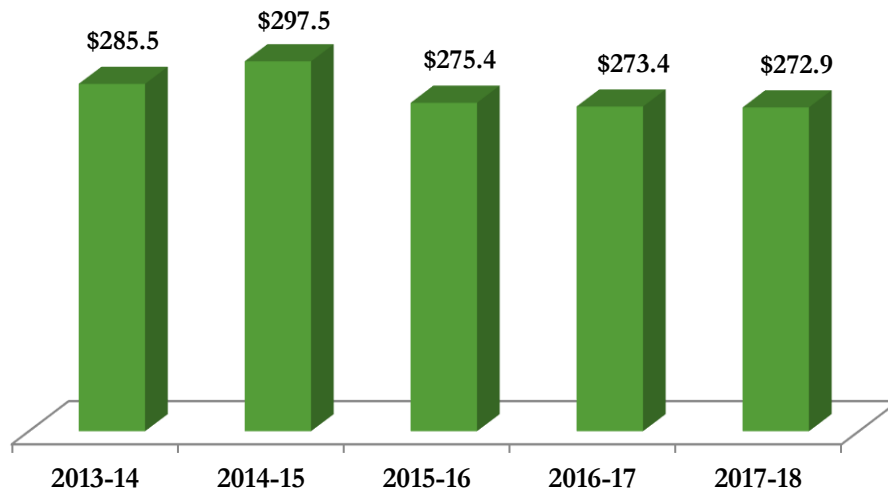


*College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2018*. Maximum award for 2017-18 was \$5,920.

NSHE Student Loans

For NSHE students, total loan disbursements from all sources continued to decrease slightly in 2017-18 over the prior year, from \$273.4 million to \$272.9 million, after another small decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17 and a steeper decrease of 7.4 percent between 2014-15 and 2015-16 (Figure 9). A major contributor to the decrease between 2014-15 and 2015-16 was CSN, with a drop of 49.1 percent in student loan disbursements, primarily due to the institution's decision to no longer prepackage unsubsidized student loans during the initial awarding process. CSN also saw a double digit decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17, as did two other institutions: TMCC and WNC (Appendix B). Nationally, total disbursements of federal and non-federal loans continued to decrease for the seventh consecutive year, from \$127.7 million to \$105.5 billion in 2017-18 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2018*).

Figure 9 NSHE Total Loan Disbursements – All Sources
(in millions)



In 2017-18 four NSHE institutions made available to students long- and/or short-term loans that were institutionally funded. In accordance with Board of Regents' policy (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 24), institutions must report annually on such loans. Table 4, below, meets this reporting mandate and provides information regarding NSHE loan disbursements in 2017-18.

Table 4 – NSHE Total Long- and Short-Term Institutional Loans
2017-18

	Total Outstanding June 30, 2017	Total Outstanding June 30, 2018	Total Awarded	Total Repayments	Total Written Off*	% Written Off
UNLV	\$3,261,362	\$2,939,671	\$284,930	\$480,055	\$126,565	44.4%
UNR	\$8,586,219	\$7,504,074	\$308,151	\$1,235,364	\$154,932	50.3%
GBC	\$0	\$0	\$2,107	\$2,107	\$0	0.0%
TMCC	\$10,488	\$12,613	\$15,386	\$13,261	\$0	0.0%
Total	\$11,858,069	\$10,456,358	\$610,574	\$1,730,787	\$281,497	46.1%

*Write-off category includes Perkins Loans forgiven under federal regulations. Percentage written off calculated per Board of Regents policy as total written off divided by total awarded for combined loan programs for the year.

Nevada Student Financial Assistance Programs

In 2017-18 five Systemwide programs provided financial assistance to NSHE students (Table 5): Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS); Nevada Grants-in-Aid (GIA); Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA); Regents Service Program (RSP); and, established in 2015 by the Nevada Legislature, Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG). RHEOA, commonly referred to as Student Access Aid, has been the largest of the Nevada programs since 2010-11.

**Table 5 – NSHE State Program Disbursements
2017-18 (dollars in millions)**

	Students ²	% Total	Dollars	% Total
Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS)	22,362	38.3%	\$34.6	29.9%
Nevada Grants-in-Aid (GIA)	4,106	7.0%	\$18.4	15.9%
Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) ¹	30,032	51.4%	\$58.0	50.1%
Regents' Service Program (RSP)	194	0.3%	\$0.8	0.9%
Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG)	1,696	2.9%	\$4.1	3.6%
Total	58,390	100.0%	\$115.8	100%

¹Of total RHEOA awards, 84.3% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 80.4% in 2016-17. RHEOA awarded as grants, scholarships and/or work study.

²Headcount is duplicated for students who received awards in multiple categories.

During 2017 Session, the Nevada Legislature approved Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 461, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*), which established the Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS) program and budgeted \$3.5 million dollars to be awarded to recent high school graduates who enroll at a community college during 2018-19 and do not have other aid to cover the cost of registration fees. During the recently concluded 2019 Session the Legislature appropriated an additional \$4.5 billion (Senate Bill 503, Chapter 451, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*). Disbursements from the NPS program will begin to appear in this annual report in 2020 when the 2018-19 report is published.

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

Between its inception in 2000 and the 2015 Nevada Legislative Session, the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program was adjusted through increasingly rigorous initial and continuing eligibility requirements, primarily in an effort to maintain the longevity of the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund. These requirements, along with the declining value of the scholarship in the face of registration fee increases, resulted over time in a reduced percentage of students who activate their scholarships and are able to maintain eligibility. However, this trend has been offset to some degree by the increasing number of Nevada high school graduates, which numbered 12,953 in 2000 and reached 29,678 in 2018 (Table 6). Likewise, while the percentage of eligible students activating their scholarships dropped steadily since 2000, the percentage of eligible students out of high school fluctuated. The result is a steadily growing number of students receiving at least one GGMS disbursement. When reviewing the program summary data, it is also important to note that students may activate their scholarship at any time within the six-year eligibility window; this means, for example, that the number of activated scholarships for the Class of 2018 will continue to increase until May 31, 2024.

During 2015 Legislative Session two bills were passed that resulted in an expansion of the GGMS program: Senate Bill 128 (Chapter 373, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*), which increased the maximum number of fundable credits from 12 to 15, and Assembly Bill 150 (Chapter 207, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*), which created a pathway for Nevada high school graduates who don't meet the initial eligibility GPA requirement to qualify instead through a college entrance exam score. Because GGMS awards are made on a per-credit basis, SB 128 resulted in an increase of as much as \$240 per semester for university students, \$180 per semester for state college students and \$120 for community college students.

**Table 6 – Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program Data
Selected Years, 2000 to 2018**

	Class of				
	2000	2012	2014	2016	2018
High School GPA Requirement ¹	3.00	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
NV Public High School Graduates ²	12,953	21,291	22,824	24,610	29,678
MS Eligible Graduates ³	7,359	9,758	10,866	12,723	14,517
% Eligible	56.8%	45.8%	47.6%	51.7%	48.9%
Activated Scholarships ³	5,657	6,399	6,979	7,912	8,277
% Eligible who Activated	76.9%	65.6%	64.2%	62.2%	57.0%

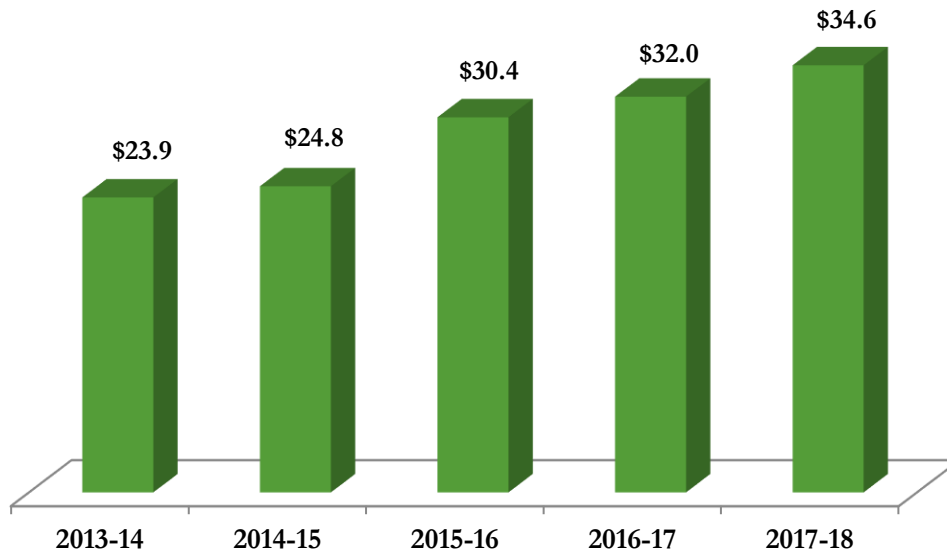
¹Beginning with high school graduating class of 2009, in addition to earning a minimum GPA and meeting other eligibility requirements, students are required to complete Millennium Core Curriculum.

²Nevada public high school graduates include those earning a standard or advanced diploma. Data for 2011 and later obtained from State Longitudinal Data System (as of 8/5/19). Data prior to 2011 obtained from Nevada Department of Education.

³Eligible graduate and activated scholarship data provided by Nevada Office of the Treasurer (as of 7/24/19). Students may activate their scholarship at any time within the 6-year eligibility window.

In 2017-18 GGMS disbursements to NSHE students reached an all-time program high of \$34.6 million, an increase of \$2.6 million over the prior year. This came after an increase of \$1.6 million between 2015-16 and 2016-17 and of \$5.6 million between 2014-15 and 2015-16 (Figure 10). These increases are directly attributable to changes made to the GGMS program during 2015 Session by the Nevada Legislature, as well as the increasing number of GGMS-eligible Nevada high school graduates.

Figure 10 Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship
NSHE Total Disbursements (in millions)

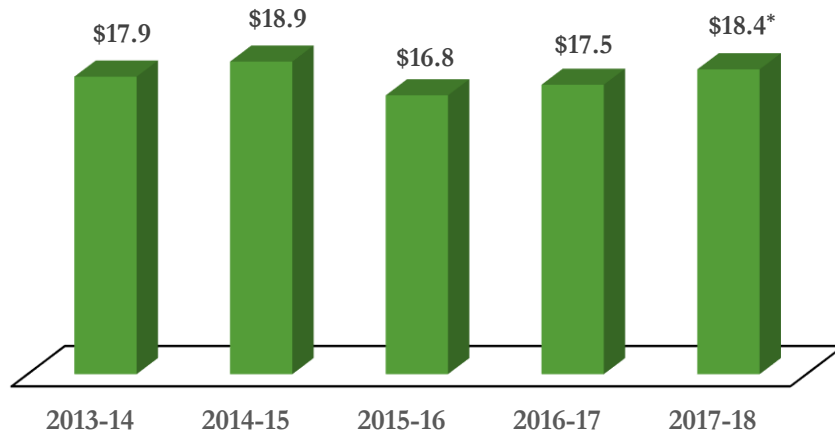


Nevada Grants-in-Aid

Nevada Grants-in-Aid is not a formal financial aid program, but, rather a combination of different awards made at the NSHE campuses that fall into this general category. Figures reported here include only those awards that have actual dollars attached to the transaction. Board policy governing grants-in-aid is contained in the *Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 1 and 2. The different types of grants-in-aid include, but are not limited to: athletics, graduate assistants, members of Native American tribes, dependents of active duty service members killed in the line of duty, and non-resident students. Notably, faculty/staff grants-in-aid (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 3, Sections 11 through 13) are not included here because they are a benefit of employment with NSHE rather than financial aid in the traditional sense.

In 2017-18 disbursements in the grants-in-aid category totaled \$18.4 million (Figure 11): \$15.2 million from state sources, \$1.1 million from federal, \$2.1 million institutional, with the small amount remaining from private. Due to the varied nature of these awards, the total disbursements tend to fluctuate considerably from year to year.

Figure 11
Nevada Grants-in-Aid
NSHE Total Disbursements (in millions)



*\$15.2 million in state funds; also includes \$1.1 million in federal funds and \$2.1 million in institutional funds, with the remainder from private sources.

NSHE Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award

As in prior years, the majority of Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) disbursements made to students in 2017-18 were in the form of grants, although some campuses awarded RHEOA-funded scholarships and work study (Table 7). According to Board policy (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 8), at least 80 percent of RHEOA disbursements to undergraduates must be need-based. For graduate students the requirements vary: at least 80 percent of state-funded RHEOA disbursements must be need-based, while at least 50 percent of fee-generated RHEOA disbursements must be need-based.

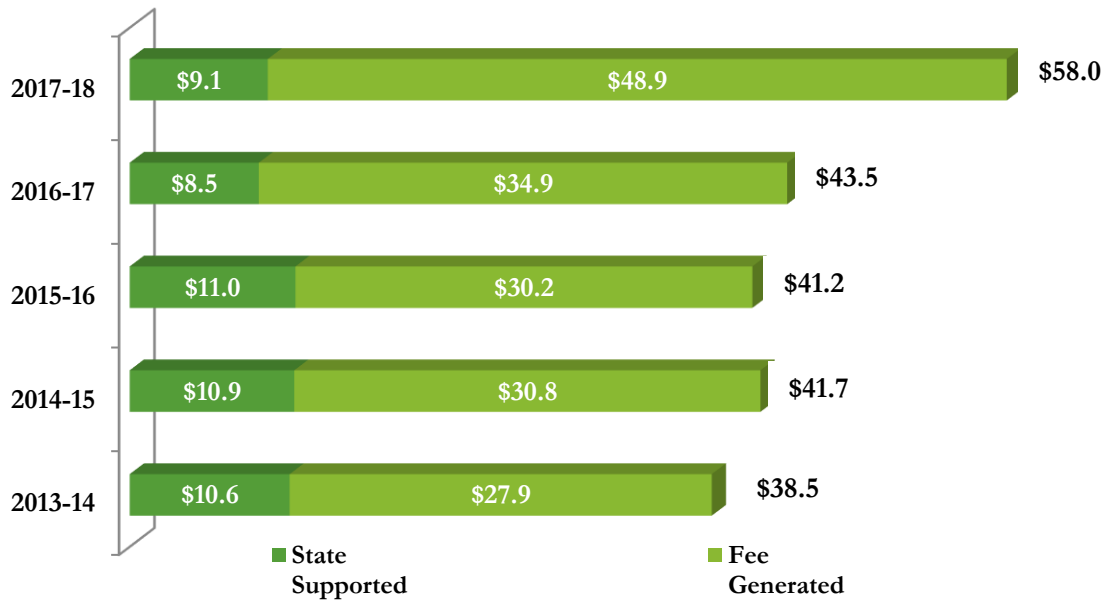
Table 7 – NSHE Total Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements 2017-18

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC	NSHE
Grants	\$24,205,396	\$14,337,734	\$1,474,219	\$5,750,004	\$495,770	\$1,775,713	\$656,860	\$48,695,696
Scholarships	\$4,710,738	\$2,419,820	\$916,176	\$292,140	\$66,265	\$0	\$0	\$8,405,139
Work Study	\$0	\$285,310	\$0	\$0	\$30,208	\$437,566	\$137,794	\$890,877
Total	\$28,916,133	\$17,042,864	\$2,390,395	\$6,042,144	\$592,243	\$2,213,279	\$794,654	\$57,991,712

Note: of total RHEOA awards, 84.3% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 80.4% in 2016-17. RHEOA awarded as grants, scholarships and/or work study; headcount is duplicated for students who received awards in multiple categories.

RHEOA disbursements increased by 33.4 percent over the prior year, from \$43.5 million in 2016-17 to \$58 million in 2017-18 (Figure 12). RHEOA dollars come from two sources: the state supported budget and a percentage of registration fees, with the majority coming from registration fees. In 2017-18, the proportion of fee-generated aid to state-supported aid in the RHEOA program calculated to 84.3 percent coming from registration fees and 15.7 percent coming from the state-supported budget, while in 2016-17 the breakdown was 80.4 percent from registration fees and 19.6 percent state-supported.

Figure 12 NSHE Total Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements (in millions)



NSHE Regents' Service Program

According to Board policy, institutions must report on the Regents' Service Program (RSP) annually. The RSP was established by the Board of Regents "...so that NSHE students can make a contribution to the critical needs of the community" (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 7). Designed primarily as a work program with priority given to literacy and P-16 programs, awards are targeted to students with a high level of skill or knowledge. Table 8 indicates the number of students that participated in the RSP and total dollars disbursed in 2017-18.

Table 8 – NSHE Total Regents' Service Program Disbursements 2017-18

	Students	Dollars
UNLV	66	\$293,352
UNR	51	\$199,087
NSC	0	\$0
CSN	38	\$53,391
GBC	5	\$10,701
TMCC	23	\$71,914
WNC	11	\$53,132
Total	194	\$681,576

Silver State Opportunity Grant Program

The Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) is a state-supported financial aid program created by the 2015 Legislature pursuant to Senate Bill 227 (Chapter 387, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*). Under the SSOG Program, need-based grants are awarded to eligible low-income students who are college-ready to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community college or state college within the NSHE. This unique program is built on a shared responsibility model and guided by a philosophy for awarding grant aid based on the total cost of attendance (tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and other living expenses) being shared by partners (the state, the federal government, the family, and the student). Simply stated, the program is designed to ensure low income students have both the incentive and the financial resources to enroll in 15 credits per semester and graduate on time as do their more affluent peers.

SSOG Awards were initially made during Academic Year 2015-16. The 2015 Legislature appropriated the sum of \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2016-17 to support the program under Senate Bill 514 (Chapter 534, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*). For the first two program years, available funding was insufficient to award all eligible students. However, during the 2017 Legislative Session the SSOG program became part of the approved Executive Budget, with an appropriation doubling that of the prior biennium: \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2017-18 and \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Table 9 – NSHE Silver State Opportunity Grant Disbursements, 2017-18

	Students	Dollars
NSC	400	\$950,167.50
CSN	681	\$1,524,429.50
GBC	181	\$573,351.50
TMCC	273	\$682,535.50
WNC	161	\$416,122.00
Total	1,696	\$4,146,606

Since SSOG is the State of Nevada’s first state-supported need-based financial aid program and recipients are required to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), it is the first program where income information is available for all recipients. Data collected from the campuses for reporting to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) demonstrate that, as intended, the program is indeed reaching some of the neediest students attending NSHE institutions (Table 10).

**Table 10 – Silver State Opportunity Grant Recipients by Income Level
2017-18 (Year Three)**

Dependent Students			Independent Students		
Income Range	Students	Dollars	Income Range	Students	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	259	\$512,965	\$2,999 or less	99	\$326,087
\$20,000 - \$39,999	350	\$622,245	\$3,000 - \$5,999	47	\$134,680
\$40,000 - \$49,999	152	\$282,198	\$6,000 - \$9,999	78	\$235,786
\$50,000 - \$59,999	96	\$187,422	\$10,000 - \$14,999	103	\$287,910
\$60,000 - \$79,999	103	\$209,176	\$15,000 - \$19,999	77	\$245,827
\$80,000 - \$99,999	21	\$39,894	\$20,000 - \$29,999	131	\$413,973
\$100,000 or more	2	\$4,759	\$30,000 - \$39,999	75	\$276,163
Total	983	\$1,858,656	\$40,000 - \$49,999	36	\$126,500
	Median Income: \$34,015		\$50,000 or more	31	\$105,525
			Total	711	\$2,287,950
				Median Income: \$16,718	

Likewise, the SSOG program has been successful in reaching NSHE’s diverse population of students at each of the participating campuses, with the percentage of minority recipients either mirroring or exceeding the overall campus population (Table 11).

**Table 11 – Silver State Opportunity Grant
Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2017-18 (Year Three)**

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	% Minority SSOG	% Minority Institution**
NSC	0.0%	11.7%	13.6%	40.8%	1.9%	4.4%	27.7%	72.3%	60.3%
CSN	0.7%	13.7%	10.8%	34.8%	2.0%	8.8%	29.3%	70.7%	63.7%
GBC	5.3%	0.8%	0.8%	23.7%	0.8%	3.8%	64.9%	35.1%	32.1%
TMCC	1.4%	8.9%	3.8%	39.9%	0.0%	4.7%	41.3%	58.7%	41.6%
WNC	2.9%	1.9%	1.9%	51.5%	0.0%	2.9%	38.8%	61.2%	33.0%

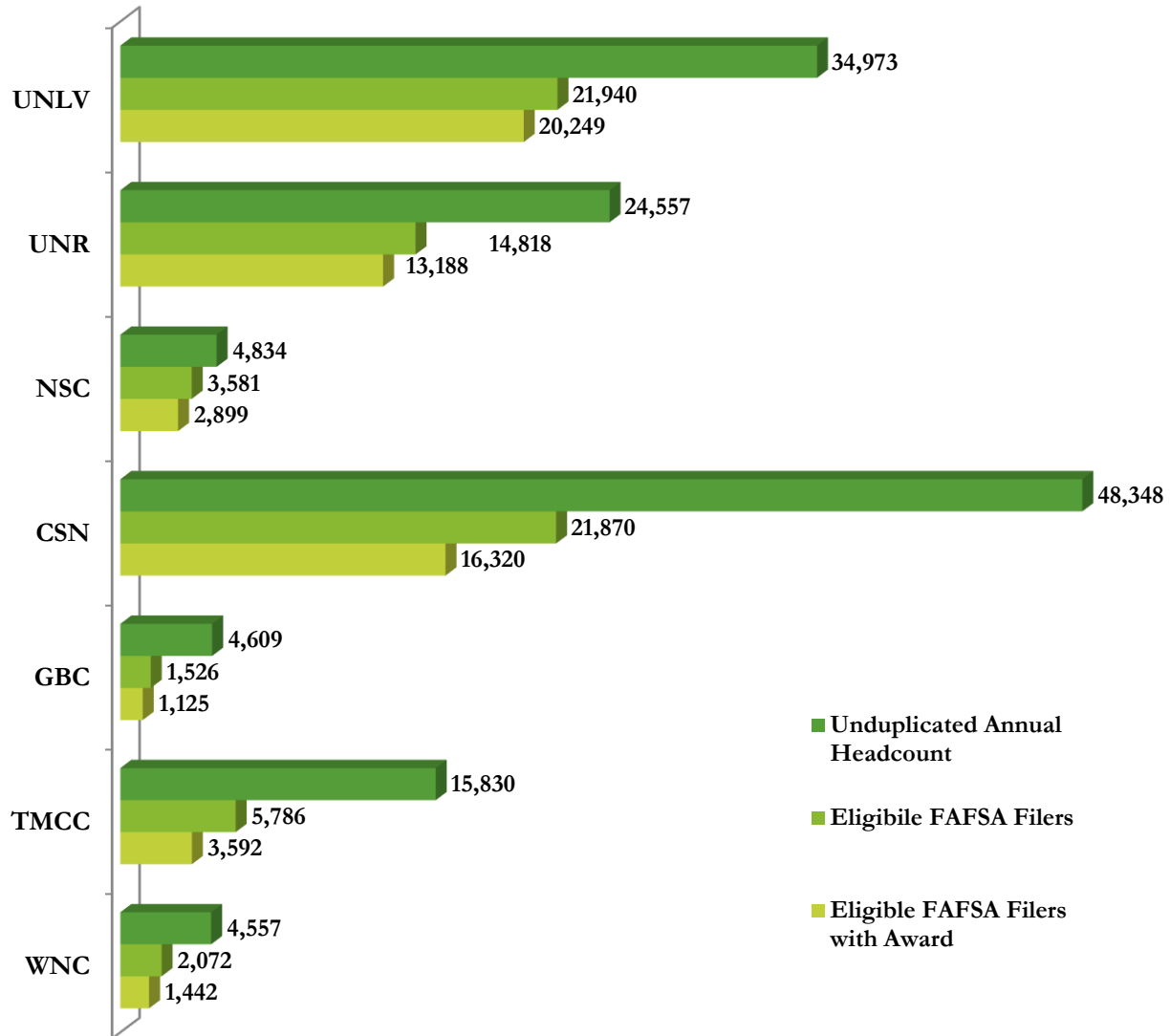
*Percentages exclude unknown and non-resident alien race/ethnicity categories.

**IPEDS, Fall 2016. Minority category includes all ethnicities included in the table except White, Non-Hispanic.

NSHE Financial Aid Applicants and Recipients

Figure 13 shows the number of enrolled FAFSA filers (financial aid applicants) as compared to the FISAP (see definition below) unduplicated institutional headcount and the number of enrolled FAFSA filers who received at least one financial aid award during 2017-18.

Figure 13 NSHE Total Enrolled Students, FAFSA Filers and Awards
2017-18



Definitions:

Unduplicated Annual Headcount: total number of enrolled students as reported on the Title IV Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) by each NSHE institution (Part II, Question 7 (a) and (b)).

Eligible FAFSA Filers: total number of enrolled students who completed a FAFSA and met citizenship or residency requirements (FISAP Part II, Question 40).

Eligible FAFSA Filers with Award: total number of students who completed a FAFSA, met citizenship or residency requirements and received at least one award.

NSHE Financial Aid Recipient Race & Ethnicity

Table 12 provides the percent distribution of financial aid recipients in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. In 2017-18, as in prior years, CSN awarded the highest percentage of Black students, while UNLV awarded the highest percentage of Asian students as well as students of two or more races, and GBC awarded the highest percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native students. For the first time, NSC awarded the highest percentage of Hispanic students.

**Table 12 – NSHE Financial Aid Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2017-18 Percent Distribution**

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	4.2%	1.5%	3.5%
Asian	15.2%	8.4%	11.3%	9.2%	1.6%	5.8%	2.1%
Black	9.3%	4.0%	11.0%	16.0%	3.3%	3.5%	3.2%
Hispanic	30.0%	22.5%	36.1%	35.6%	21.4%	32.8%	24.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.9%	0.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	0.1%	0.6%
Two or More Races	10.5%	6.9%	6.2%	6.5%	3.2%	4.1%	4.3%
White	33.8%	56.8%	33.2%	30.6%	65.0%	52.1%	62.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity category.

Table 13 provides data on the percent distribution of financial aid disbursements in 2017-18 to students in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. This distribution is similar to those above for percentage of recipients.

**Table 13 – NSHE Financial Aid Disbursements by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2017-18 Percent Distribution**

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	6.0%	1.6%	3.6%
Asian	14.8%	8.5%	11.3%	7.9%	1.4%	6.1%	1.9%
Black	11.6%	5.9%	12.2%	19.8%	3.3%	4.2%	3.0%
Hispanic	26.3%	22.5%	31.8%	32.4%	19.0%	30.9%	24.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.1%	0.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.1%	0.1%	0.5%
Two or More Races	10.1%	7.6%	6.5%	6.9%	3.1%	4.6%	4.6%
White	35.8%	53.9%	35.7%	30.7%	66.0%	52.5%	62.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity category.

Appendix A

Table 14 – NSHE Total Aid Disbursed by Type (Need/Non-Need)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants NB	\$155,097,252	\$162,637,710	\$159,283,095	\$154,811,455	\$175,996,305	13.7%	13.5%
Grants NN	\$5,974,270	\$10,050,595	\$5,905,759	\$5,518,008	\$6,371,581	15.5%	6.7%
Grants Total	\$161,071,523	\$172,688,306	\$165,188,854	\$160,329,463	\$182,367,886	13.7%	13.2%
Grants % NB	96.3%	94.2%	96.4%	96.6%	96.5%		
Grants-in-Aid NB	\$97,015	\$80,618	\$101,227	\$504,487	\$94,880	-81.2%	-2.2%
Grants-in-Aid NN	\$17,851,252	\$18,776,343	\$16,719,895	\$16,954,902	\$18,292,758	7.9%	2.5%
Grants-in-Aid Total	\$17,948,267	\$18,856,961	\$16,821,122	\$17,459,389	\$18,387,637	5.3%	2.4%
Grants-in-Aid % NB	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	2.9%	0.5%		
Scholarships NB	\$4,702,387	\$5,150,217	\$7,372,784	\$8,257,866	\$9,240,180	11.9%	96.5%
Scholarships NN	\$49,580,467	\$56,132,430	\$63,027,112	\$66,864,047	\$73,279,827	9.6%	47.8%
Scholarships Total	\$54,282,854	\$61,282,648	\$70,399,896	\$75,121,913	\$82,520,007	9.8%	52.0%
Scholarships % NB	8.7%	8.4%	10.5%	11.0%	11.2%		
Loans NB	\$89,686,397	\$90,851,522	\$81,357,252	\$77,249,800	\$70,912,800	-8.2%	-20.9%
Loans NN	\$195,776,147	\$206,629,288	\$194,006,175	\$196,115,872	\$201,984,597	3.0%	3.2%
Loans Total	\$285,462,544	\$297,480,810	\$275,363,427	\$273,365,672	\$272,897,397	-0.2%	-4.4%
Loans % NB	31.4%	30.5%	29.5%	28.3%	26.0%		
Employment NB	\$3,548,393	\$4,056,643	\$4,050,295	\$3,809,575	\$3,254,698	-14.6%	-8.3%
Employment NN	\$52,352,157	\$52,175,651	\$55,846,014	\$58,776,812	\$63,123,069	7.4%	20.6%
Employment Total	\$55,900,550	\$56,232,294	\$59,896,310	\$62,586,388	\$66,377,767	6.1%	18.7%
Employment % NB	6.3%	7.2%	6.8%	6.1%	4.9%		
Total Need-Based*	\$253.1	\$262.8	\$252.2	\$244.6	\$259.5	6.1%	2.5%
NB %	44.0%	43.3%	42.9%	41.5%	41.7%		
Total Non-Need*	\$321.5	\$343.8	\$335.5	\$344.2	\$363.1	5.5%	12.9%
NN %	56.0%	56.7%	57.1%	58.5%	58.3%		
Grand Total*	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	5.7%	8.3%

* dollars in millions

Key

NB = Need-based

NN = Non-need-based

Appendix B

Table 15 - NSHE Total Loan Disbursements from All Sources

	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		1 Year % Change	
	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students
UNLV	\$141,198,744	11,965	\$141,892,864	12,006	\$142,643,940	11,809	0.5%	-1.6%
UNR	\$82,239,318	8,320	\$86,574,775	8,320	\$89,809,934	8,189	3.7%	-1.6%
NSC	\$11,785,609	1,615	\$11,670,763	1,609	\$11,946,712	1,625	2.4%	1.0%
CSN	\$27,399,958	6,744	\$23,591,267	5,865	\$20,786,718	5,242	-11.9%	-10.6%
GBC	\$2,044,022	300	\$1,928,400	277	\$1,773,702	258	-8.0%	-6.9%
TMCC	\$7,137,863	1,202	\$5,359,914	934	\$4,204,756	770	-21.6%	-17.6%
WNC	\$3,557,914	575	\$2,347,689	415	\$1,731,635	300	-26.2%	-27.7%
Total	\$275,363,427	30,721	\$273,365,672	29,426	\$272,897,397	28,193	-0.2%	-4.2%

Note: for 2015-16 and after, a student borrower is counted once, regardless of the number of loans taken. In prior years a single student was counted multiple times (once for each loan taken).