

2018-19 NSHE FINANCIAL AID REPORT



PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
AUGUST 2020 (REVISED)

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2018-19 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 2018-19 financial aid disbursements to NSHE students Systemwide totaled \$638.3 million, an increase of 2.5 percent over the prior year, when disbursements totaled \$622.6 million. Looking over a longer period, between 2014-15 and 2018-19 total aid disbursed to NSHE students saw a 5.2 percent increase. GBC experienced the highest increase in total financial aid disbursed, over both the prior year and the most recent five-year period. All other institutions, except for WNC, saw modest increases over the prior year. Just as in past years, in 2018-19 loans comprised the largest proportion (43.0 percent) of aid disbursed at NSHE institutions. Scholarships saw both the greatest one-year increase (14.5 percent) as well as the greatest increase over five years (54.2 percent). The remaining two categories also increased over the prior year: student employment at 0.4 percent and grants-in-aid at 4.9 percent.

The Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) program continues to comprise a greater percentage of Nevada state financial assistance dollars to students than the merit-based Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program, Nevada's largest formal state-wide financial aid program (45.9 percent versus 31.3 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, the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) continued to experience growth in this reporting period due to the cumulative effects of program changes made during 2015 Legislative Session (outlined later in this report), combined with an increase in the number of eligible high school graduates. In addition, 2018-19 was the first year that Nevada Promise Scholarships were awarded.

The increases in state, private and institutional aid, combined with more modest increases in federal aid over the last five years resulted in an ongoing decrease in the percentage of federal aid as a portion of all aid awarded to NSHE students, from 71 percent in 2014-15 to 63 percent in 2018-19. Nationally, the proportion of total aid from federal sources saw a similar decline, from 68 percent in 2014-15 to 62 percent in 2018-19. Conversely, for the first time in five years, in 2018-19 the percentage of grant aid from federal sources increased over the prior year from 69 percent to 71 percent (Figure 5). This is more than twice as high as the national percentage calculated by The College Board (30 percent; *Trends in Student Aid 2019*). This is despite Nevada's growth in state and institutional financial assistance programs and can be partially explained by the state's focus on scholarships—both the growth of the GGMS program and the creation of the NPS program.

As mentioned previously, loans made up the largest portion (43.0 percent) of financial aid disbursed to NSHE students in 2018-19. 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. In 2018-19 total loan disbursements increased only slightly (0.5 percent) over the prior year. This comes after three consecutive annual decreases.

The number of NSHE students filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) continued to fluctuate, decreasing in 2018-19 over the prior year by 2,658 students (3.7 percent), after increasing slightly by 713 students (1.0 percent) between 2016-17 and 2017-18. 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 failed to turn in required documents, while others who complete the process are eligible only for student loans and choose not to take them.

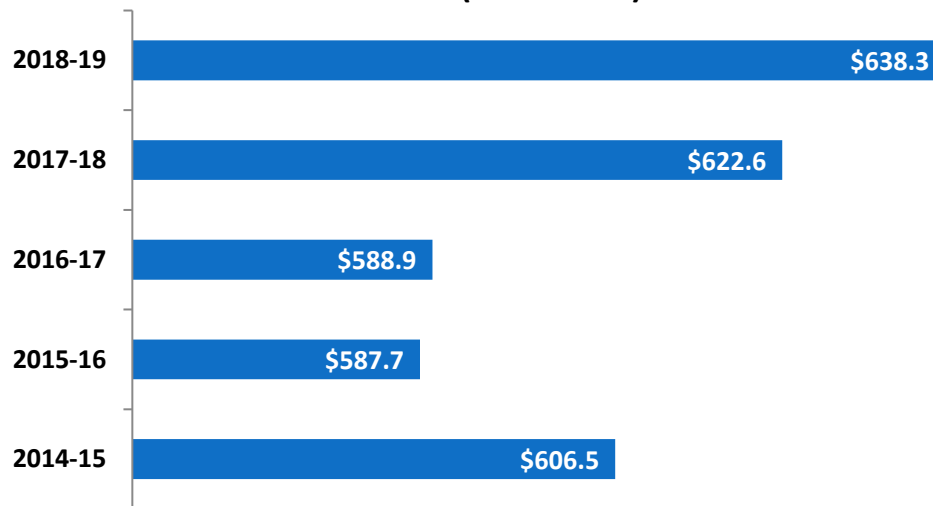
Methodology

The *2018-19 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 \$15.7 million over the prior year, from \$622.6 million in 2017-18 to \$638.3 million in 2018-19 (2.5 percent; Figure 1). Looking back over the most recent five-year period, total financial aid disbursements increased by \$31.8 million (5.2 percent).

Figure 1 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed
(in millions)



GBC experienced the highest increase in total financial aid disbursed, over both the prior year and the most recent five-year period. All other institutions, except for WNC, saw modest increases over the prior year (Table 1). The decrease at WNC can be explained primarily by the steadily increasing proportion of high school students making up the student body (they are not eligible for federal or most other types of financial aid).

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

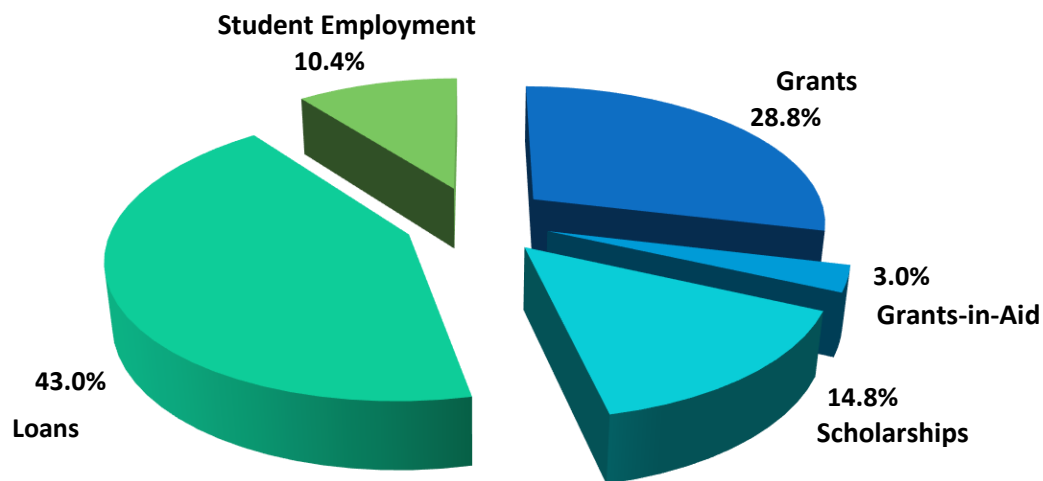
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
UNLV	\$248.6	\$256.1	\$263.4	\$281.7	\$291.0	3.3%	17.0%
UNR	\$178.1	\$188.0	\$194.3	\$208.9	\$210.1	0.6%	18.0%
NSC	\$20.6	\$20.5	\$20.9	\$23.8	\$24.8	4.4%	20.4%
CSN	\$113.7	\$81.8	\$74.1	\$73.7	\$77.1	4.5%	-32.2%
GBC	\$6.0	\$6.4	\$6.6	\$7.1	\$8.1	14.1%	34.2%
TMCC	\$26.1	\$23.8	\$21.1	\$19.3	\$19.8	2.5%	-24.1%
WNC	\$13.4	\$11.1	\$8.5	\$8.1	\$7.5	-6.7%	-43.8%
Total	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	\$638.3	2.5%	5.2%

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 2018-19 the distribution of total aid by category (Figure 2) presented a picture similar to prior years. In comparison, in 2017-18 loans comprised 43.8 percent of total; student employment 10.7 percent; grants 29.3 percent; grants-in-aid 3.0 percent; and scholarships 13.3 percent.

Figure 2 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category
2018-19 (percent distribution)



In 2018-19 the greatest increase over the prior year was in the scholarship category, at 14.5 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 54.2 percent; this signals the continued recovery of scholarship programs after a substantial decrease between 2010-11 and 2011-12, as well as increases in Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) disbursements and the first disbursements in the Nevada Promise Scholarship program. All other categories showed an increase over the prior year. All categories but loans showed an increase over 2014-15.

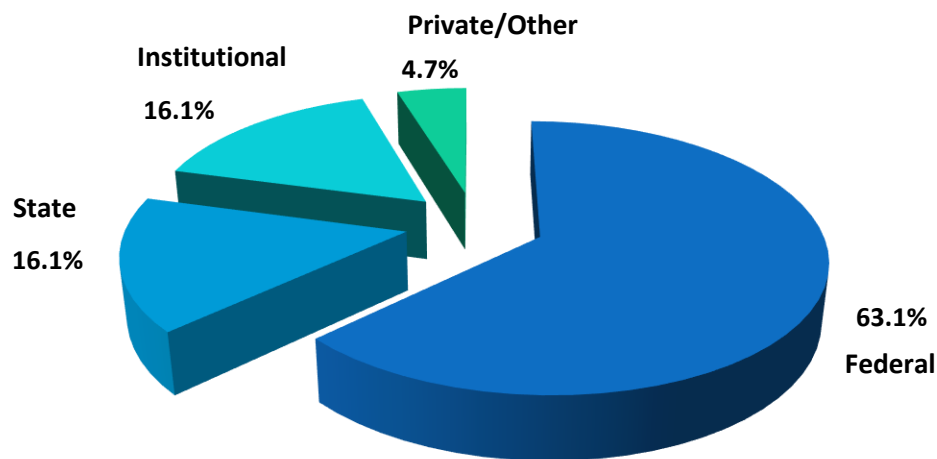
Table 2 – NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category
(in millions)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants	\$172.7	\$165.2	\$160.3	\$182.4	\$183.5	0.6%	6.3%
Grants-in-Aid	\$18.9	\$16.8	\$17.5	\$18.4	\$19.3	4.9%	2.3%
Scholarships	\$61.3	\$70.4	\$75.1	\$82.5	\$94.5	14.5%	54.2%
Loans	\$297.5	\$275.4	\$273.4	\$272.9	\$274.4	0.5%	-7.8%
Student Employment	\$56.2	\$59.9	\$62.6	\$66.4	\$66.6	0.4%	18.5%
Total	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	\$638.3	2.5%	5.2%

NSHE Financial Aid by Source

The distribution of total aid by source in 2018-19 (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 percent in 2014-15 to 63 percent in 2018-19. This decrease was offset mainly by an increased share of aid coming from state sources. In comparison, in 2017-18, federal sources accounted for the majority of all aid disbursed to NSHE students, at 64.1 percent; state sources accounted for 15.5 percent; institutional, 16.3 percent; and private/other, 4.1 percent.

**Figure 3 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
2018-19 Percent Distribution**



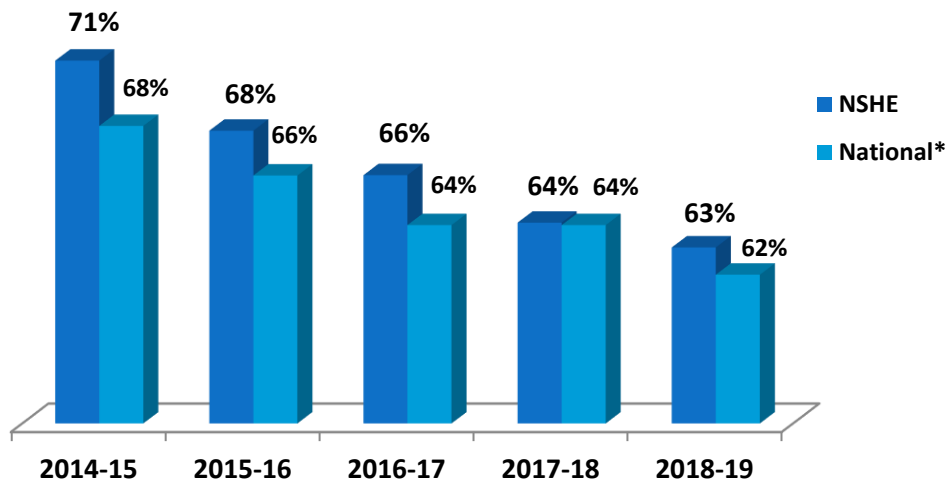
When considering NSHE total aid disbursed in 2018-19 by source, the greatest five-year percentage increase came from state sources, while the greatest increase over the prior year came in the private/other category (Table 3). In comparison, in 2017-18, both the greatest five-year and prior-year percentage increases came from institutional sources (39.6 and 17.2 percent, respectively). The increase in state aid between 2014-15 and 2018-19 is primarily attributable to a substantial increase in Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) disbursements combined with Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) disbursements and the first year of disbursements from the Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS) Program.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Federal	428.4	398.5	388.7	398.9	402.6	0.9%	-6.0%
State	76.2	85.7	87.7	96.3	103.0	7.0%	35.2%
Institutional	78.2	79.4	86.7	101.6	102.6	1.0%	31.2%
Private/Other	23.8	24.1	25.8	25.8	30.2	16.9%	27.0%
Total	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	\$638.3	2.5%	5.2%

The increases in state, private and institutional aid, combined with more modest increases in federal aid over the last five years has resulted in an ongoing decrease in the percentage of federal aid as a portion of all aid awarded to NSHE students, from 71 percent in 2014-15 to 63 percent in 2018-19. Nationally, the proportion of total aid from federal sources saw a similar decline, from 68 percent in 2014-15 to 62 percent in 2018-19.

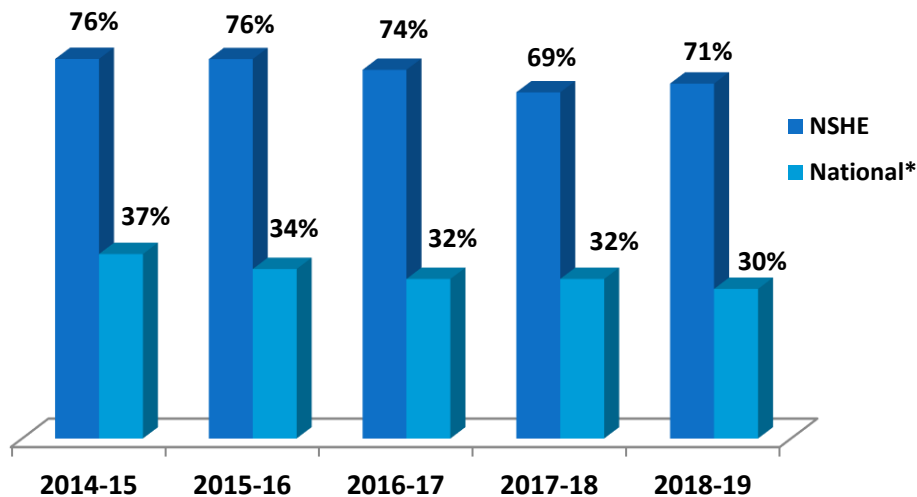
Figure 4 Percent Total Aid from Federal Sources



* College Board , *Trends in Student Aid, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.*

Conversely, for the first time in five years, in 2018-19 the percentage of grant aid from federal sources increased over the prior year from 69 percent to 71 percent (Figure 5). This is more than twice as high as the national percentage calculated by The College Board (30 percent; *Trends in Student Aid 2019*). This is despite Nevada’s growth in state and institutional financial assistance programs and can be partially explained by the state’s focus on scholarships—both the growth of the GGMS program and the creation of the NPS program.

Figure 5 Percent Grant Aid from Federal Sources

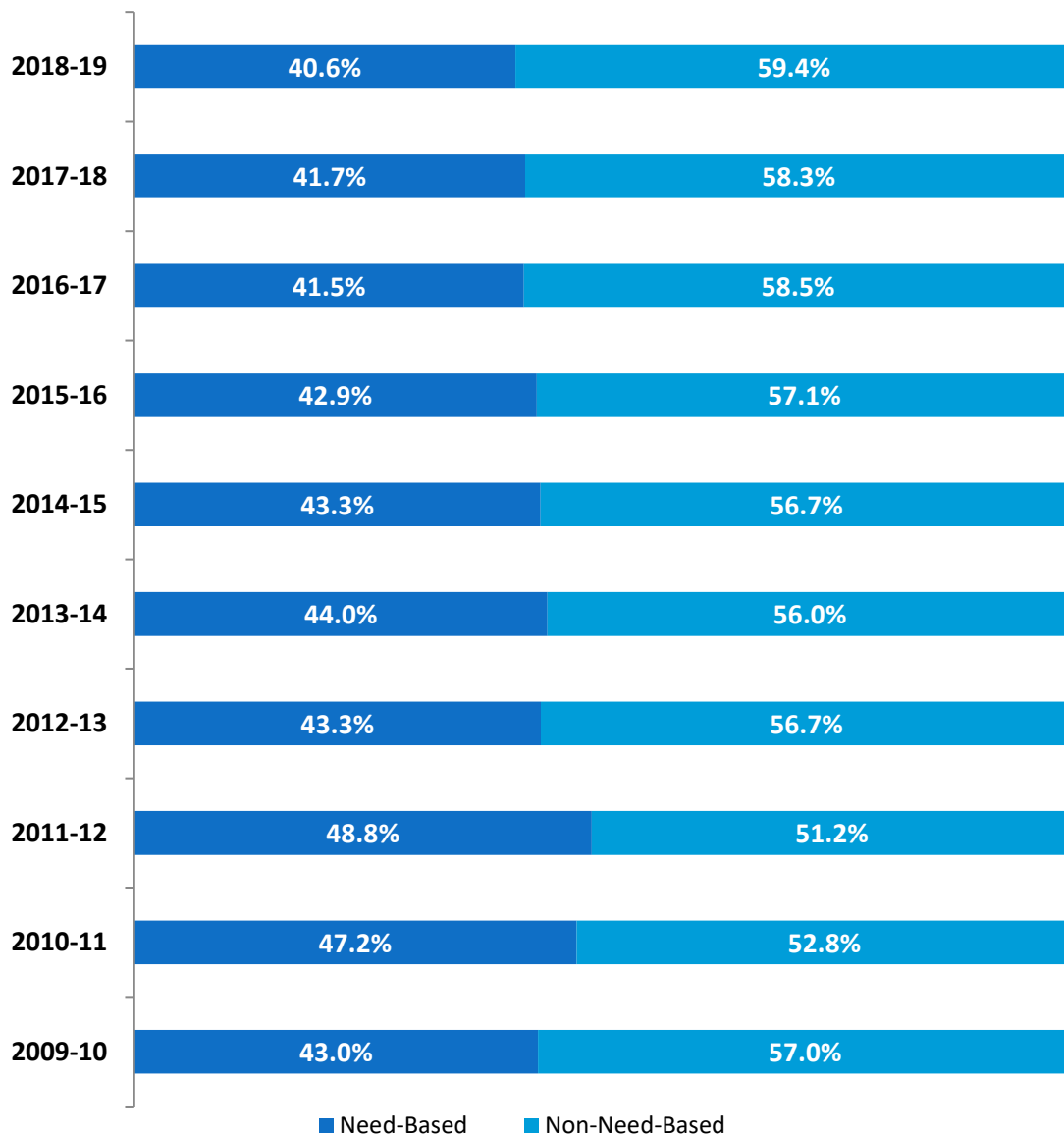


* College Board , *Trends in Student Aid, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.*

NSHE Financial Aid by Type

In 2018-19 all need-based disbursements to NSHE students totaled \$259.5 million and non-need disbursements totaled \$378.9 million. After a small increase in the proportion of need-based aid versus non-need-based aid between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the percentage of need-based aid awarded to NSHE students decreased between 2017-18 and 2018-19 (Figure 6). There is no simple explanation for this trend (for detailed data by category and type, see Appendix A).

Figure 6 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Type
(percent distribution)



NSHE Pell Grants

According to The College Board, Pell Grant disbursements in 2018-19 accounted for \$21.0 billion in aid to 6.2 million students nationwide. (*Trends in Student Aid 2019*).

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, followed by another increase in total dollars disbursed, from \$123.7 million in 2017-18 to \$127.2 million in 2018-19 (Figure 7). The number of recipients dipped slightly between 2017-18 and 2018-19, from 34,501 to 34,270 (Figure 8).

Figure 7 NSHE Total Pell Grant Disbursements
(in millions)

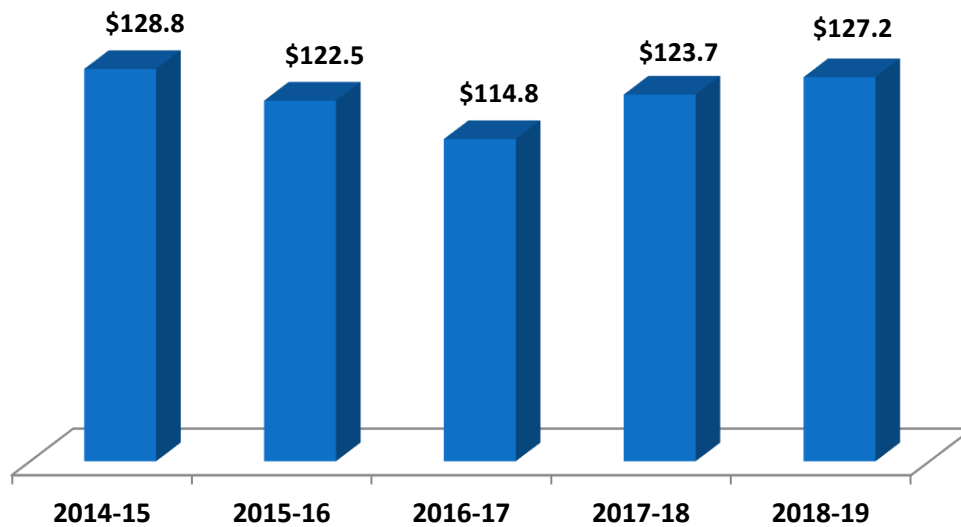
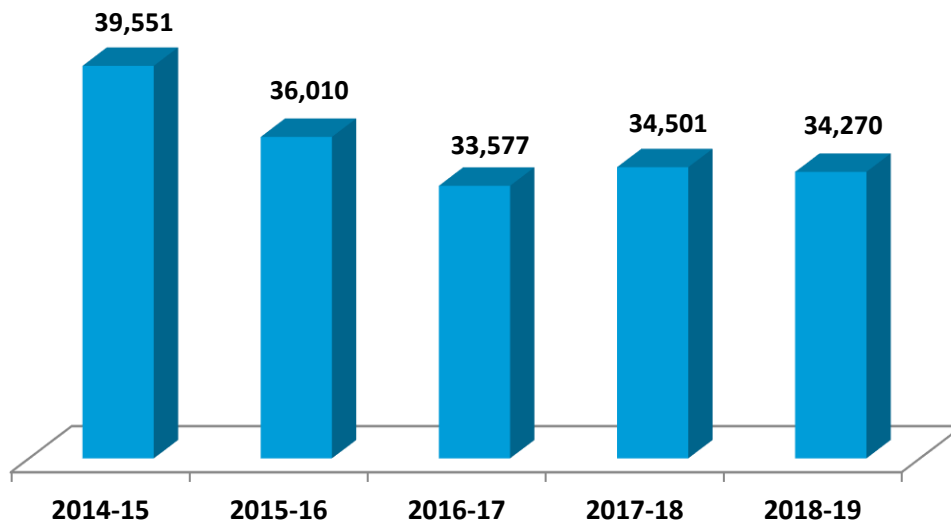


Figure 8 NSHE Total Pell Grant Recipients

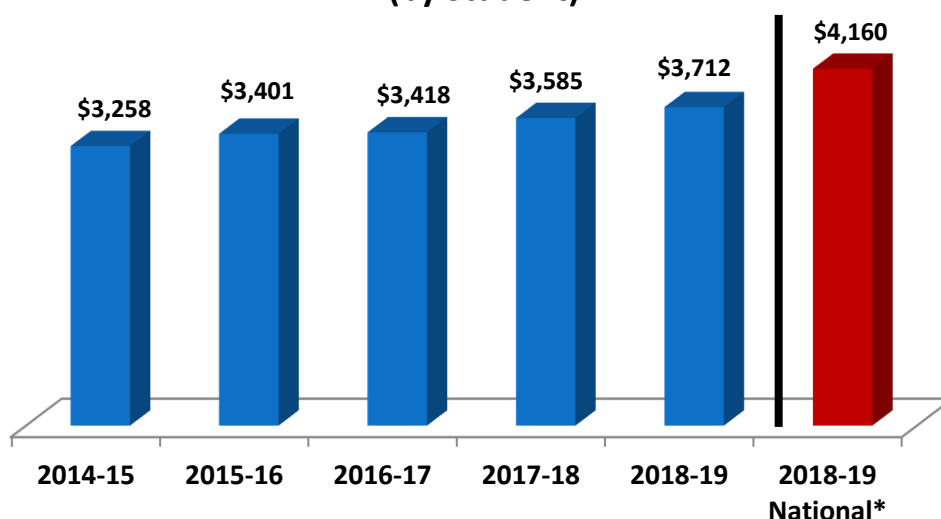


As detailed by the College Board in its 2019 publication of *Trends in Student Aid*, the maximum award amount in the Pell Grant program varies over time, especially when adjusted for inflation: “the \$6,095 maximum Pell Grant in 2018-19 was 32% higher in inflation-adjusted dollars than it was 20 years earlier, but it was 1% lower than it was 40 years earlier, in 1978-79.”

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 2018-19, the maximum annual Pell Grant award increased to \$6,095 from \$5,920 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 over the past two years (Figure 9).

Figure 9 NSHE Average Annual Pell Grant Disbursements (by Student)

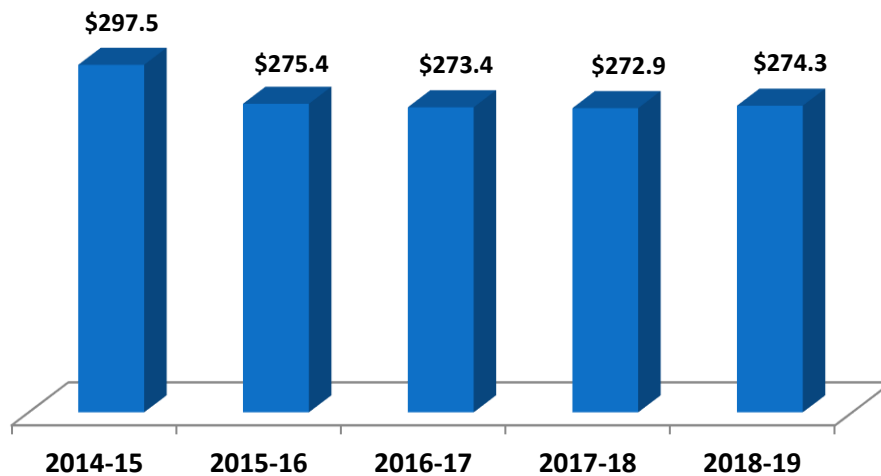


*College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2019*. Maximum award for 2018-19 was \$6,095.

NSHE Student Loans

After three years of decreases, total loan disbursements to NSHE students from all sources increased slightly in 2018-19 over the prior year, from \$272.9 million to \$274.3 million, (Figure 10). Between 2014-15 and 2018-19, all NSHE institutions saw a decrease in loan disbursements, and four out of the seven institutions saw a decrease between 2017-18 and 2018-19 (Appendix B). Measured in 2018 dollars, total disbursements of federal and non-federal loans across the nation continued to decrease for the eighth consecutive year, from \$131.7 billion in 2010-11 to \$106.2 billion in 2018-19 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2019*).

**Figure 10 NSHE Total Loan Disbursements--All Sources
(in millions)**



In 2018-19 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 2018-19.

**Table 4 – NSHE Total Long and Short Term Institutional Loans
2018-19**

	Total Outstanding June 30, 2018	Total Outstanding June 30, 2019	Total Awarded	Total Repayments	Total Written Off*	% Written Off
UNLV	\$2,939,671	\$2,672,197	\$283,065	\$454,161	\$96,379	34.0%
UNR	\$7,504,074	\$6,335,869	\$217,767	\$1,205,827	\$180,145	82.7%
GBC	\$8,146	\$8,125	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
TMCC	\$12,613	\$12,613	\$7,785	\$7,725	\$60	0.8%
Total	\$10,464,504	\$9,028,803	\$508,617	\$1,667,712	\$276,585	54.4%

*Write-off category includes Perkins or Health Professions 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 2018-19 six 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); Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) and, established in 2017 by the Nevada Legislature, the Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS). RHEOA, commonly referred to as Student Access Aid, has been the largest of the Nevada programs since 2010-11.

**Table 5 - NSHE Total State Program Disbursements
2018-19 (dollars in millions)**

	Students ²	% Total	Dollars	% Total
Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS)	24,029	38.2%	\$37.0	31.3%
Nevada Grants-in-Aid (GIA)	4,106	6.5%	\$19.3	16.3%
Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS)	812	1.3%	\$1.8	1.5%
Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) ¹	31,817	50.6%	\$54.1	45.9%
Regents' Service Program (RSP)	212	0.3%	\$0.8	0.9%
Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG)	1,866	3.0%	\$5.0	4.2%
Total	62,842	100.0%	\$118.0	100%

¹Of total RHEOA awards, 84.2% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 84.3% in 2017-18. RHEOA awarded as grants, scholarships and/or work study.

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

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 effect has been offset to by the increasing number of Nevada high school graduates, which numbered 12,953 in 2000 and reached 30,605 in 2019 (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 2019 will continue to increase until May 31, 2025.

During 2015 Legislative Session two bills were enacted 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 do not 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, 2000-2019**

	2000	Class of			
		2013	2015	2017	2019
High School GPA Requirement ¹	3.0	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
NV Public High School Graduates ²	12,953	23,013	23,843	28,566	30,605
MS Eligible Graduates ³	7,359	10,543	11,312	13,747	15,352
% Eligible	56.8%	45.8%	47.4%	48.1%	50.2%
Activated Scholarships ³	5,657	6,762	7,365	8,783	8,435
% Eligible who Activated	76.9%	64.1%	65.1%	63.9%	54.9%

¹Beginning with the 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 (includes Career and College Ready Diploma beginning in 2019). Data from the Nevada Accountability Portal (as of 8/4/20). Data prior to 2011 obtained from NDE.

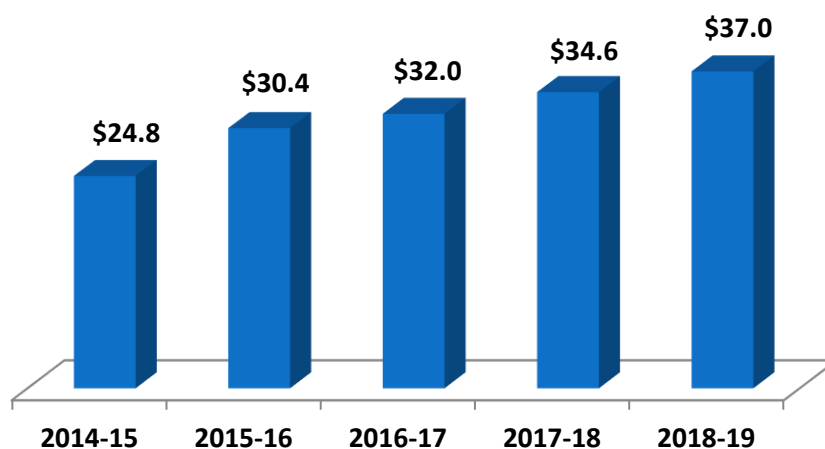
³Eligible graduates and activated scholarships data provided by Nevada Office of the Treasurer (as of 8/3/20). Students may activate their scholarship at any time within the 6-year eligibility window.

Of note, during 2019 Legislative Session a bill passed that may reduce the number of students who retain program eligibility in future, thereby providing a moderating affect to the substantial increases in annual disbursements over the last several years. Senate Bill 453 (Chapter 290, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*) replaced a tiered GPA for continuing eligibility (2.6 for the first year and 2.75 thereafter) to a single GPA for all continuing eligibility determinations (2.75).

In 2018-19 GGMS disbursements to NSHE students reached an all-time program high of \$37.0 million, an increase of \$2.4 million over the prior year. This came after an increase of \$5.6 million between 2014-15 and 2015-16; \$1.6 million between 2015-16 and 2016-17; and \$2.6 million between 2016-17 and 2017-8 (Figure 11). 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 11

**Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship
Total NSHE Disbursements (in millions)**



Due to the larger number of GGMS students who attend a four-year institution, as well as the larger per-credit award and the greater prevalence of students enrolled in the maximum fundable credit load (15 credits) at these institutions, a substantially higher percentage of program dollars are awarded to students attending UNLV, UNR or NSC as compared to the four NSHE community colleges.

**Table 7 - Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship
Total NSHE Disbursements, 2018-19**

Four-Year Institutions			Two Year Institutions		
Institution	Students	Dollars	Institution	Students	Dollars
UNLV	9,189	\$17,018,791	CSN	4,645	\$2,915,285
UNR	7,544	\$14,688,035	GBC	295	\$243,385
NSC	802	\$1,079,825	TMCC	1,225	\$799,400
Subtotal	17,535	\$32,786,651	WNC	329	\$233,138
			Subtotal	6,494	\$4,191,208

Total Students: 24,029 (73.0% at four-year institutions)

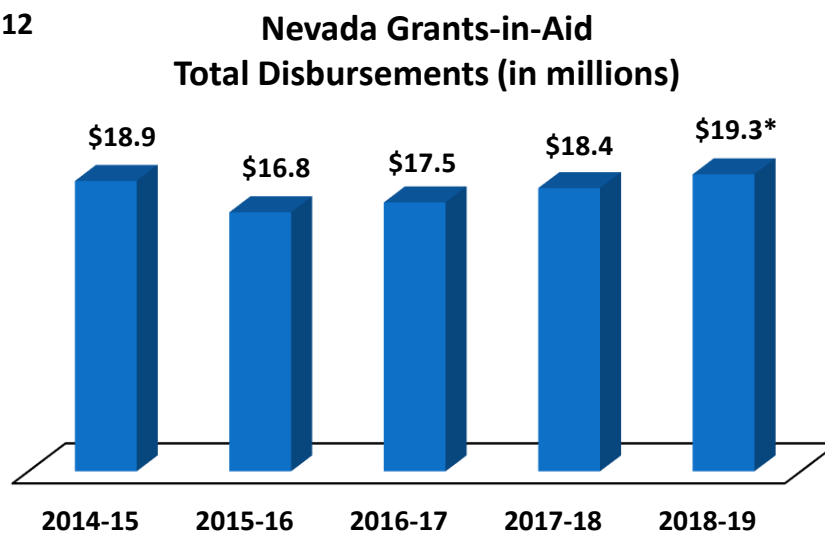
Total Dollars: \$36,977,859 (88.7% at four-year institutions)

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 2018-19 disbursements in the grants-in-aid category totaled \$19.3million (Figure 12): \$16.3 million from state sources, \$1.2 million from federal, and \$1.6 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 12



*\$16.3 million in state funds; also includes \$1.2 million in federal funds and \$1.6 million in institutional funds, with the remainder from private sources.

Nevada Promise Scholarship

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 2019 Session the Legislature appropriated an additional \$4.5 billion (Senate Bill 503, Chapter 451, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*). To be eligible for an award, students must meet a number of eligibility requirements, including graduating from a Nevada high school (or equivalent), mentoring and community service. The first disbursements from the NPS program occurred in 2018-19 and appear below.

Table 8 - NSHE Total Nevada Promise Scholarship Disbursements, 2018-19

	Students	Dollars
CSN	466	994,178.77
GBC	68	194,956.73
TMCC	202	423,640.58
WNC	76	143,834.13
Total	812	\$1,756,610

Although the NPS is not a need-based program, all applicants are required to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to leverage all financial aid dollars for which a student may qualify. Since NPS is a last-dollar program that covers only registration and other mandatory fees (unlike other aid programs that can be used to cover the full cost of attendance), NPS applicants who receive a full Pell Grant or Silver State Opportunity Grant do not receive funds from the NPS program. NPS applicants who are also Millennium Scholars (but not Pell or SSOG recipients) receive funds from both programs as individual GGMS awards are limited by statute and do not cover the full cost of registration and other mandatory fees. While all NPS applicants who complete program requirements benefit from the mentoring, community service, and specialized orientation sessions, the result of this last-dollar approach is that most program funds go to students from middle- and higher-income families. Since NPS recipients file the FAFSA to meet program requirements, income data are available for all recipients. Income levels are provided in Table 9 on the following page.

**Table 9 – Nevada Promise Scholarship
Recipients by Income Level
2018-19**

Dependent Students			Independent Students		
Income Range	Number	Dollars	Income Range	Number	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	4	\$5,388	\$2,999 or less	0	\$0
\$20,000 - \$39,999	7	\$9,566	\$3,000 - \$5,999	0	\$0
\$40,000 - \$49,999	14	\$11,113	\$6,000 - \$9,999	0	\$0
\$50,000 - \$59,999	46	\$72,438	\$10,000 - \$14,999	0	\$0
\$60,000 - \$79,999	185	\$376,575	\$15,000 - \$19,999	0	\$0
\$80,000 - \$99,999	176	\$388,363	\$20,000 - \$29,999	0	\$0
\$100,000 or more	378	\$887,803	\$30,000 - \$39,999	0	\$0
Total	810	\$1,751,246	\$40,000 - \$49,999	0	\$0
			\$50,000 or more	2	\$5,364
			Total	2	\$5,364

Median Income: \$96,067

Median Income: \$102,215

On the other hand, the NPS program has been successful in reaching NSHE’s diverse population of students at each of the participating campuses (Table 10).

**Table 10 – Nevada Promise Scholarship
Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2018-19**

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	% Non-White SSPG	% Non-White Institution**
CSN	0.5%	11.3%	4.8%	39.9%	0.9%	9.0%	33.6%	66.4%	66.7%
GBC	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	25.4%	0.0%	6.0%	64.2%	35.8%	37.8%
TMCC	0.5%	3.6%	0.5%	35.0%	0.0%	5.6%	54.8%	45.2%	44.9%
WNC	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	28.9%	1.3%	7.9%	60.5%	39.5%	36.2%

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

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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 11). 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.

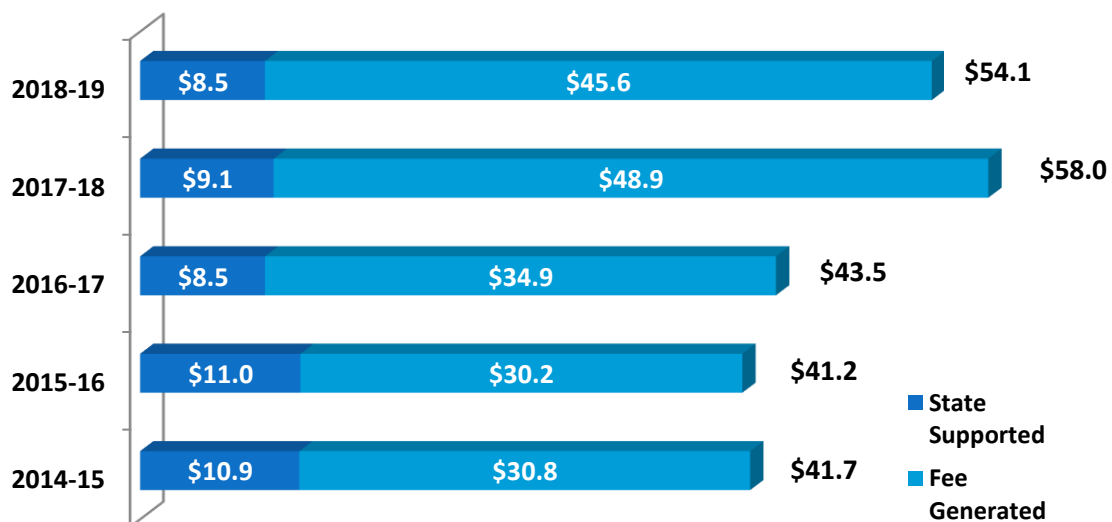
Table 11 – NSHE Total Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements 2018-19

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC	NSHE
Grants	\$19,528,498	\$15,117,566	\$1,528,700	\$5,419,355	\$491,177	\$2,061,753	\$729,388	\$44,876,436
Scholarships	\$4,960,852	\$2,284,118	\$903,158	\$375,236	\$81,113	\$0	\$5,497	\$8,609,974
Work Study	\$0	\$147,092	\$0	\$0	\$3,503	\$357,091	\$135,273	\$642,959
Total	\$24,489,350	\$17,548,776	\$2,431,858	\$5,794,591	\$575,792	\$2,418,843	\$870,158	\$54,129,368

Note: of total RHEOA awards, 84.2% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 84.3% in 2017-18. RHEOA awarded as grants, scholarships and/or work study; headcount is duplicated for students who received awards in multiple categories.

RHEOA disbursements dropped by 6.7 percent over the prior year, from \$58.0 million in 2017-18 to \$54.1 million in 2018-19 (Figure 13). RHEOA dollars come from two sources: the state supported budget and a percentage of registration fees, with the majority coming from registration fees. In 2018-19, the proportion of fee-generated aid to state-supported aid in the RHEOA program calculated to 84.2 percent coming from registration fees and 15.8 percent coming from the state-supported budget, while in 2017-18 the breakdown was 84.3 percent from registration fees and 15.7 percent state-supported.

Figure 13 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 12 indicates the number of students that participated in the RSP and total dollars disbursed in 2018-19.

**Table 12 – NSHE Total Regents' Service Program
Disbursements, 2018-19**

	Students	Dollars
UNLV	73	\$360,468
UNR	46	\$235,446
NSC	0	\$0
CSN	37	\$41,878
GBC	17	\$50,329
TMCC	29	\$97,541
WNC	10	\$61,253
Total	212	\$846,915

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 13 – NSHE Silver State Opportunity Grant Disbursements, 2018-19

	Students	Dollars
NSC	460	\$1,202,894
CSN	755	\$1,819,827
GBC	185	\$691,495
TMCC	307	\$838,544
WNC	160	\$444,049
Total	1,867	\$4,996,808

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 14).

**Table 14 – Silver State Opportunity Grant
Recipients by Income Level
2018-19**

Dependent Students			Independent Students		
Income Range	Students	Dollars	Income Range	Students	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	256	\$542,105	\$2,999 or less	109	\$368,245
\$20,000 - \$39,999	365	\$783,775	\$3,000 - \$5,999	47	\$138,434
\$40,000 - \$49,999	151	\$332,539	\$6,000 - \$9,999	69	\$215,122
\$50,000 - \$59,999	126	\$318,007	\$10,000 - \$14,999	93	\$324,739
\$60,000 - \$79,999	152	\$317,004	\$15,000 - \$19,999	81	\$251,693
\$80,000 - \$99,999	33	\$58,594	\$20,000 - \$29,999	156	\$543,683
\$100,000 or more	12	\$27,092	\$30,000 - \$39,999	81	\$304,057
Total	1095	\$2,379,114	\$40,000 - \$49,999	34	\$116,789
			\$50,000 or more	101	\$354,934
			Total	771	\$2,617,694

Median Income: \$36,312

Median Income: \$19,069

Note: total program headcount (above) differs from institutional headcount (Table 13) as one student received SSOG at different institutions in fall and spring. This student is counted only once for income reporting purposes.

Likewise, the SSOG program has been successful in reaching NSHE's diverse population of students at each of the participating campuses (Table 15).

**Table 15 – Silver State Opportunity Grant
Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2018-19**

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	% Non-White SSOG	% Non-White Institution**
NSC	0.5%	10.9%	11.6%	43.7%	1.6%	4.4%	27.2%	72.8%	69.4%
CSN	0.7%	13.3%	12.0%	35.3%	1.4%	7.5%	29.7%	70.3%	66.7%
GBC	4.5%	0.6%	1.1%	22.7%	0.6%	3.4%	67.0%	33.0%	37.8%
TMCC	1.0%	8.3%	3.0%	41.6%	0.0%	5.0%	41.3%	58.7%	44.9%
WNC	1.9%	2.6%	1.9%	49.4%	0.0%	3.9%	40.3%	59.7%	36.2%

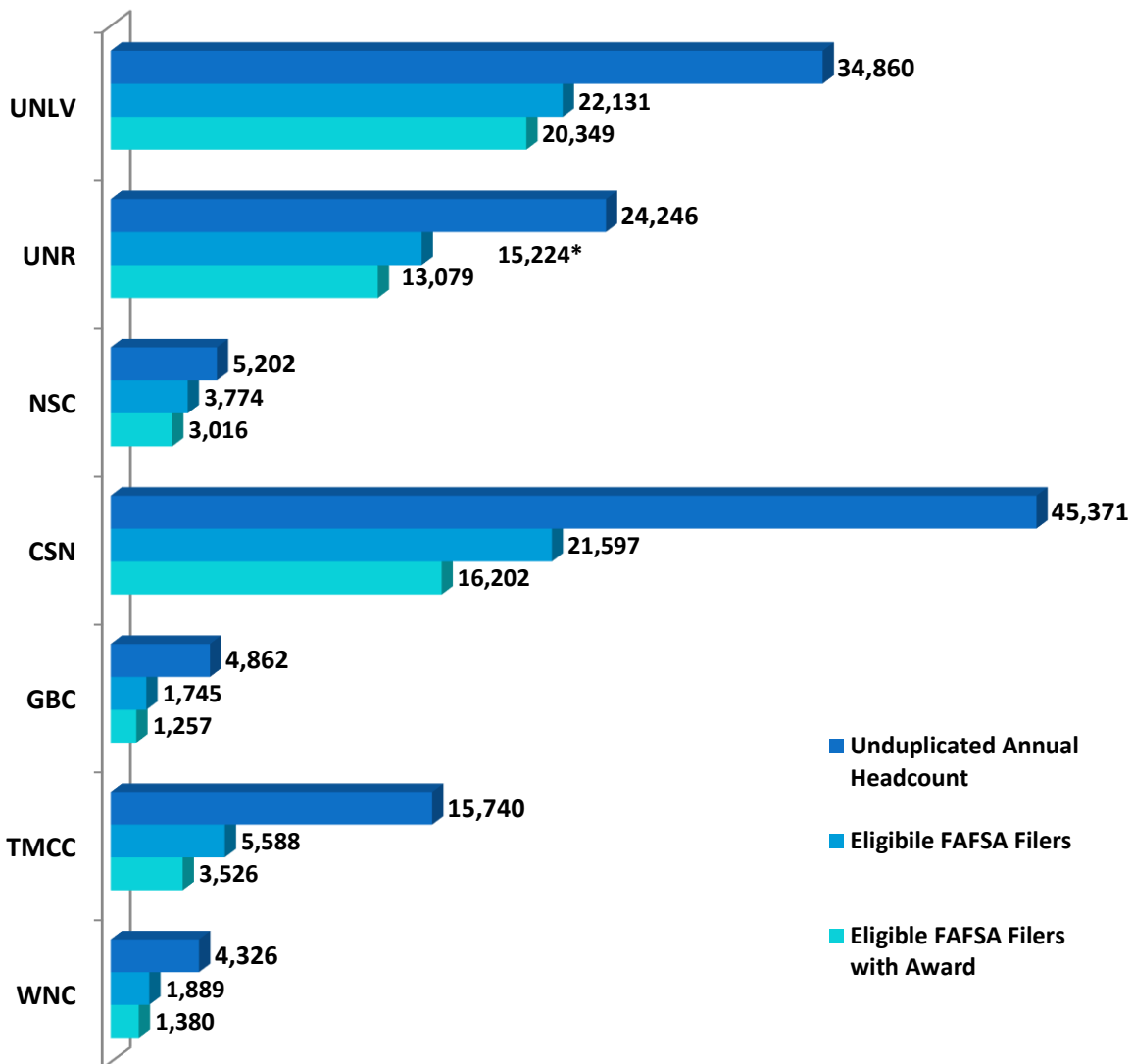
*Percentages exclude unknown and non-resident alien race/ethnicity categories.

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NSHE Financial Aid Applicants and Recipients

Figure 14 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 2018-19.

**Figure 14 NSHE Total Enrolled Students, FAFSA Filers and Awards
2018-19***



*Figure Corrected

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 16 provides the percent distribution of financial aid recipients in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. In 2018-19, as in prior years, CSN awarded the highest percentage of Black students; UNLV awarded the highest percentage of Asian students as well as students of two or more races; GBC awarded the highest percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native students; and NSC awarded the highest percentage of Hispanic students.

**Table 16 – NSHE Financial Aid Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2018-19 (percent distribution)**

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	4.6%	1.5%	3.1%
Asian	15.5%	8.6%	11.1%	9.3%	1.6%	5.7%	1.8%
Black	9.2%	4.2%	11.1%	17.1%	4.9%	3.4%	2.7%
Hispanic	30.8%	23.2%	39.2%	36.1%	21.2%	35.5%	26.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.9%	0.6%	1.6%	1.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%
Two or More Races	10.7%	7.3%	5.7%	7.3%	3.2%	4.1%	5.0%
White	32.5%	55.4%	30.8%	28.2%	64.0%	49.7%	60.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity category.

Table 17 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 17 – NSHE Financial Aid Disbursements by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2018-19 (percent distribution)**

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	5.7%	1.5%	3.1%
Asian	14.9%	8.5%	11.5%	8.6%	1.4%	5.9%	1.9%
Black	11.9%	6.2%	13.0%	20.4%	4.5%	4.1%	2.8%
Hispanic	26.7%	22.9%	34.7%	32.7%	20.8%	33.7%	27.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.0%	0.8%	1.7%	1.7%	0.9%	0.1%	0.4%
Two or More Races	10.6%	8.0%	5.9%	7.5%	3.3%	4.4%	5.8%
White	34.5%	52.8%	32.5%	28.6%	63.5%	50.3%	58.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity category.

Appendix A

Table 18 – NSHE Total Aid Disbursed by Type (Need/Non-Need)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants NB	\$162,637,710	\$159,283,095	\$154,811,455	\$175,996,305	\$177,105,474	0.6%	8.9%
Grants NN	\$10,050,595	\$5,905,759	\$5,518,008	\$6,371,581	\$6,441,142	1.1%	-35.9%
Grants Total	\$172,688,306	\$165,188,854	\$160,329,463	\$182,367,886	\$183,546,617	0.6%	6.3%
Grants % NB	94.2%	96.4%	96.6%	96.5%	96.5%		
Grants-in-Aid NB	\$80,618	\$101,227	\$504,487	\$94,880	\$85,644	-9.7%	6.2%
Grants-in-Aid NN	\$18,776,343	\$16,719,895	\$16,954,902	\$18,292,758	\$19,200,275	5.0%	2.3%
Grants-in-Aid Total	\$18,856,961	\$16,821,122	\$17,459,389	\$18,387,637	\$19,285,918	4.9%	2.3%
Grants-in-Aid % NB	0.4%	0.6%	2.9%	0.5%	0.4%		
Scholarships NB	\$5,150,217	\$7,372,784	\$8,257,866	\$9,240,180	\$10,207,851	10.5%	98.2%
Scholarships NN	\$56,132,430	\$63,027,112	\$66,864,047	\$73,279,827	\$84,302,462	15.0%	50.2%
Scholarships Total	\$61,282,648	\$70,399,896	\$75,121,913	\$82,520,007	\$94,510,314	14.5%	54.2%
Scholarships % NB	8.4%	10.5%	11.0%	11.2%	10.8%		
Loans NB	\$90,851,522	\$81,357,252	\$77,249,800	\$70,912,800	\$68,201,018	-3.8%	-24.9%
Loans NN	\$206,629,288	\$194,006,175	\$196,115,872	\$201,984,597	\$206,163,599	2.1%	-0.2%
Loans Total	\$297,480,810	\$275,363,427	\$273,365,672	\$272,897,397	\$274,364,617	0.5%	-7.8%
Loans % NB	30.5%	29.5%	28.3%	26.0%	24.9%		
Employment NB	\$4,056,643	\$4,050,295	\$3,809,575	\$3,254,698	\$3,886,088	19.4%	-4.2%
Employment NN	\$52,175,651	\$55,846,014	\$58,776,812	\$63,123,069	\$62,748,650	-0.6%	20.3%
Employment Total	\$56,232,294	\$59,896,310	\$62,586,388	\$66,377,767	\$66,634,738	0.4%	18.5%
Employment % NB	7.2%	6.8%	6.1%	4.9%	5.8%		
Total Need-Based*	\$262.8	\$252.2	\$244.6	\$259.5	\$259.5	0.0%	-1.3%
NB %	43.3%	42.9%	41.5%	41.7%	40.6%		
Total Non-Need*	\$343.8	\$335.5	\$344.2	\$363.1	\$378.9	4.4%	10.2%
NN %	56.7%	57.1%	58.5%	58.3%	59.4%		
Grand Total*	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	\$622.6	\$638.3	2.5%	5.2%

* dollars in millions

Key

NB = Need-based

NN =Non-need-based

Appendix B

Table 19 – NSHE Total Loan Disbursements from All Sources

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		1 Year % Change	
	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students
UNLV	\$141,892,864	12,006	\$142,643,940	11,809	146,617,572.33	11,644	2.8%	-1.4%
UNR	\$86,574,775	8,320	\$89,809,934	8,189	90,131,463.00	7,863	0.4%	-4.0%
NSC	\$11,670,763	1,609	\$11,946,712	1,625	11,381,217.00	1,607	-4.7%	-1.1%
CSN	\$23,591,267	5,865	\$20,786,718	5,242	19,366,896.00	4,970	-6.8%	-5.2%
GBC	\$1,928,400	277	\$1,773,702	258	1,792,632.00	260	1.1%	0.8%
TMCC	\$5,359,914	934	\$4,204,756	770	3,794,329.00	612	-9.8%	-20.5%
WNC	\$2,347,689.00	415	\$1,731,635	300	1,179,008.00	191	-31.9%	-36.3%
Total	\$273,365,672	29,426	\$272,897,397	28,193	274,263,117.33	27,147	0.5%	-3.7%

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).