



# nassgap

**national association of state student grant and aid programs**  
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2011-12

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June 18, 2012

Dear Colleague:

I am happy to provide you with the 2010-11 Annual Survey Report of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP). This is the 42nd annual survey report issued by NASSGAP and a unique data source concerning efforts by states to help their residents access postsecondary education.

The survey shows that states provided about \$11 billion of student financial aid in academic year 2010-11, an increase of about 2.5 percent from last year's total of \$10.8 billion. Of the total amount awarded in 2010-11, about \$9.2 billion was in the form of grants and scholarships, including \$6.5 billion in grants for 3.1 million awards to students with financial need. Grant aid for needy students is important for both initial access to postsecondary education and successful degree completion. Grant aid, unlike a loan, does not need to be repaid and in today's economic conditions helps students reach their educational goals without excessive debt.

Grant aid for undergraduates increased about 4.3 percent from last year. NASSGAP data show state legislatures and state leadership still place a high priority on aid that helps students access and complete the postsecondary training of their choice. States continue to be under tremendous financial pressure. The commitment of states to funding education in these economic conditions demonstrates an understanding of the value of investing in the skills and training. In addition to need-based aid, it is important to remember that states continue to provide targeted aid for veterans and National Guard members, as well as specific programs important to ensuring sufficient teachers, nurses, and other professionals in workforce shortage areas.

I would like to thank the state representatives who responded to the survey, reviewed survey tables, and helped NASSGAP compile this report. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the survey or the survey process or if there is any way in which you believe the survey could better serve your needs. Should you have any questions regarding the survey or survey data or need any additional information about NASSGAP's survey efforts, please contact Mike Solomon at 217-524-7933 or me at 515-725-3420.

Best regards,

Julie Leeper, President