



Student Aid Priorities

Federal Pell Grant Program

Pell Grants are the largest student aid program, the foundation of federal student aid, and focused on students from low-income households who need financial support the most. Unlike student loans, they do not have to be repaid. Pell Grants are awarded from the federal government to low-income students for undergraduate study at all colleges and universities.

- Student Aid Alliance Request: \$7,595, while working towards a maximum funding amount of \$13,000
- FY 2026 Trump Administration Proposal: \$5,710
- FY 2026 Appropriation: \$7,395

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)

SEOG grants, unlike student loans, do not have to be repaid. They are awarded to Pell Grant recipients with the greatest need at participating institutions. Colleges match federal funding to help low-income students borrow less and persist to completion.

- Student Aid Alliance Request: \$966.26 Million
- FY 2026 Trump Administration Proposal: \$0 (Proposed Termination)
- FY 2026 Appropriation: \$910 Million

Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)

FWS provides part-time jobs to help students work their way through college while building professional skills. Colleges and other employers match federal funding for jobs at participating institutions, local businesses, or in community service. Work study recipients are connected to the campus community, which helps them complete college on time.

- Student Aid Alliance Request: \$1.31 Billion
- FY 2026 Trump Administration Proposal: \$250 Million
- FY 2026 Appropriation: \$1.23 Billion

TRIO Programs

TRIO programs help low-income, first-generation college Americans enter college, graduate, and launch a career. The programs provide a pipeline of educational outreach and student support services from middle school through postgraduate study. The institution-based programs provide tutoring, personal, financial and career counseling, and special instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, and study skills.

- Student Aid Alliance Request: \$1.3 Billion
- FY 2026 Trump Administration Proposal: \$0 (Proposed Termination)
- FY 2026 Appropriation: \$1.191 Billion

GEAR UP

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) target at-risk 7th grade cohorts and work with them through high school to prepare and apply for college. States and local partnerships receive federal funds to create programs.

- Student Aid Alliance Request: \$410 Million
- FY 2026 Trump Administration Proposal: \$0 (Proposed Termination)
- FY 2026 Appropriation: \$388 Million

Graduate Programs

The Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program supports increasing the quality of students who prepare for research and teaching. GAANN targets high-performing and high-need graduate students in areas of national competitiveness.

- Student Aid Alliance Request: \$28.6 Million
- FY 2026 Trump Administration Proposal: \$0 (Proposed Termination)
- FY 2026 Appropriation: \$23.5 Million