

Pell Grant Status Report

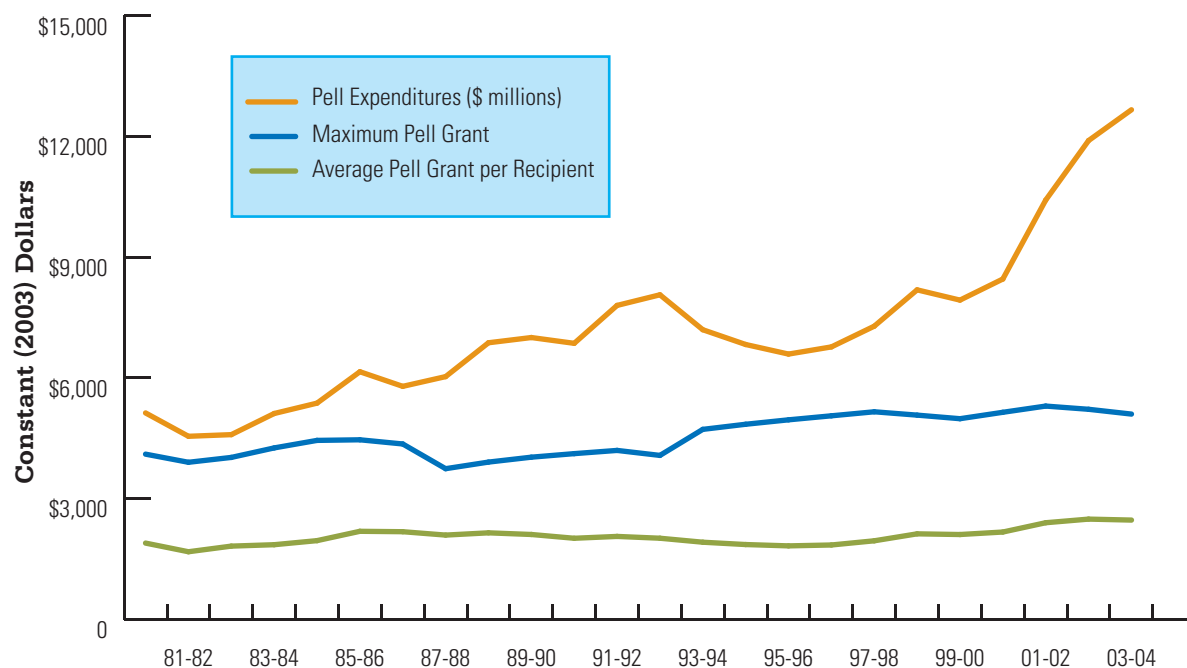
October 2004

The Pell Grant program is the cornerstone of aid for low-income students.

- In 2003-04, \$12.7 billion in Pell Grants funded 5.1 million students with average grants of \$2,466.
- The maximum Pell Grant is \$4,050 in 2004-05. This represents a 3 percent decline in the inflation-adjusted value of the Pell maximum since 2002-03, when the maximum Pell Grant was \$4,000.
- Over the decade from 1993-94 to 2003-04, total Pell funds increased by 76 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars. The number of recipients increased by 37 percent and aid per recipient increased by 29 percent after adjusting for inflation.
- Total Pell funds were 6 percent higher in 2003-04 than in 2002-03, after adjusting for inflation. However, the average Pell award was 1 percent lower than it had been the preceding year.

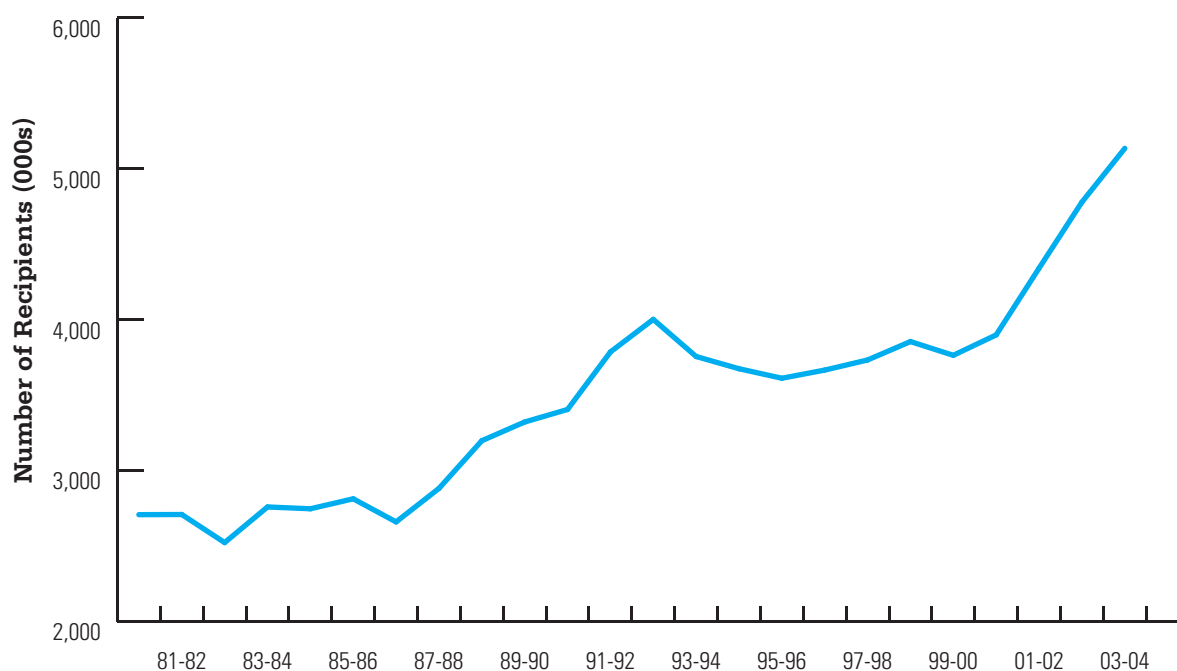
Pell Grants:

Total Expenditures, Maximum Grant and Average Grant per Recipient, 1981-82–2003-04 (in constant 2003 dollars)



- Recent increases in the total amount of Pell Grant funding are the result of sharp increases in the number of students eligible for these awards. The number of recipients in 2003-04 was 7 percent higher than the number the preceding year, and 32 percent higher than the number of students who received Pell awards in 2000-01.

Number of Pell Grant Recipients 1981-82 to 2003-04



- In 2003-04, the average Pell Grant covered 23 percent of the tuition, fees, and room and board at the average public four-year college. This was a decline from 25 percent a year earlier. The average Pell Grant covered 24 percent of the cost of attending a four-year public college a decade ago, and 35 percent in 1980-81.
- From 1992 through 2002, the Pell Grant maximum increased by 30 percent, after adjusting for inflation, following an 8 percent decline the previous decade. However, there has been a 3 percent decline since 2002.
- Average total charges at public four-year colleges and universities have increased by 46 percent since 1992.