

#DOUBLEPELL

Double the Maximum Pell Grant: Talking Points to Policymakers

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- The Pell Grant program is the nation's foundational investment in higher education. Pell Grants help nearly seven million low- and moderate-income students attend and complete college annually.
- Students from all 50 states and all corners of the country—from rural areas to cities to everywhere in between—rely on the Pell Grant program to build their future.
- Pell Grants are especially critical for students of color, with nearly 60 percent of Black students, half of American Indian or Alaska Native students, and nearly half of Latinx students receiving a Pell Grant each year.
- The share of college costs covered by the Pell Grant is at an all-time low. At its peak, the maximum grant covered three-quarters of the cost of attending a four-year public college. Now, it covers less than one-third of that cost.
- Unsurprisingly, Pell Grant recipients continue to bear disproportionate student debt burdens. Pell Grant recipients today are more than twice as likely as other students to have student loans, and grant recipients who borrow graduate with over \$4,500 more debt than their higher-income peers.
- Students from low- and moderate-income families are in critical need of additional grant aid to pay for college. Doubling the maximum Pell Grant—and permanently indexing the grant to inflation to ensure its value doesn't diminish over time—will boost college enrollment, improve graduation rates, and honor the history and value of these grants as the keystone federal investment in college affordability.