

The seal of the Nevada System of Higher Education is a large, light-colored watermark in the background. It features a central illustration of a building and a landscape, surrounded by the text "NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION" and "OMNIA PRO PATRIA".

Workforce Incentive Grant

April 13, 2022

**Prepared by the NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs
for presentation to
Community College Workforce Training and Programs Committee**

Today's Presentation

- Governor Sisolak's Commitment
- State Financial Aid Context
 - Program characteristics
 - Unmet state and student needs
 - Disbursements
- Proposed Workforce Incentive Grant
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Targeted occupations

Governor Sisolak's Commitment

On March 22, 2022, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak announced he has set aside up to \$5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward the goal to explore ways to make community college or other apprentice and training programs free for more Nevadans by 2025... The federal funding, as set aside from the Governor, will help kickstart any initial recommendations from the committee while they work toward the larger goal of making these programs free for more Nevadans by 2025.



A high school education isn't enough, and we should recognize that it's no longer "pre-school through grade 12," but at least "pre-school through community college or other post high school training."

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS)

First Awarded in 2000-01

- **Target population:** high-achieving recent high-school graduates (merit-based)
- **Eligibility window:** six years after high school graduation (with limited exceptions)
- **Enrollment requirement:** minimum at community colleges is 9 credits per semester
- **Award amount:** calculated at a tier-specific per-credit rate, maximum annual amount is \$1,200 (fall/spring, community college, lower division)
- **Cap:** maximum of \$10,000 over entire eligibility period
- **Funding:** Tobacco Settlement and State General Fund (all eligible students are funded)

Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG)

First Awarded in 2015-16

- **Target population:** students with high financial need who are college ready in math and English (need-based)
- **Eligibility window:** no time or age limit
- **Enrollment requirement:** minimum is 12 credits per semester, but those in 15 credits are funded first
- **Award amount:** maximum \$5,500 per year, based on a shared responsibility model that considers full cost of attendance
- **Cap:** No limit on number of years an award can be received
- **Funding:** State General Fund via Treasurer's Office (funding limited based on legislative appropriation)

Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS)

First Awarded in 2018-19

- **Target population:** recent high school graduates who don't have other aid to cover their registration fees ("last dollar" – neither merit-nor need-based)
- **Eligibility window:** up to three years or until they have earned an associate degree
- **Enrollment requirement:** minimum is 12 credits per semester
- **Award amount:** based on registration plus mandatory fees not covered by other state or federal aid
- **Cap:** No limit on award amounts for semester or entire eligibility period
- **Funding:** State General Fund via Treasurer's Office (funding limited based on legislative appropriation)

Unmet Needs of State and Students

- Statewide financial aid program targeted to attract students to critical workforce programs, including nursing, teaching and other in-demand occupations
 - [GOED In-Demand Regional Analyses](#)
- Focused need-based support for adult students (25 and older)
- Need-based support for part-time students

State Program Disbursements to Students 2019-20

Four-Year Institutions

Program	Students	Dollars
GGMS	18,604	\$35,008,176
SSOG (NSC only)	439	\$1,175,000
Subtotal	19,043	\$36,183,176

Two-Year Institutions

Program	Students	Dollars
GGMS	6,767	\$4,515,520
SSOG	1,347	\$3,757,774
NPS	1,130	\$2,386,065
Subtotal	9,244	\$10,659,359

Only 22.8% of state financial aid dollars are expended on students at NSHE's two-year institutions, yet students at these institutions account for 52.9% of undergraduate degree-seeking student headcount (IPEDS, 2019-20).

This is one important reason to focus a new state financial aid program on students at NSHE's community colleges.

Guiding Principles

- Propose a statewide financial aid pilot program that:
 - Supports Nevadans with no or limited eligibility for existing state financial aid programs
 - Adult (25 or older), part-time or full-time
 - Provides incentive for prospective students to pursue workforce degrees or certificates in critical occupations to the State
 - Is simple to explain to students and implement
- The pilot would take place in 2022-23

Targeted Occupations

- Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) – [In-Demand Regional Analyses](#)
- In-demand occupations will be mapped to degree and certificate programs at Nevada's community colleges

[Central Nevada](#)

GBC

WNC

[Northeastern Nevada](#)

GBC

[Northern Nevada](#)

TMCC

WNC

[Southern Nevada](#)

CSN

Questions?

