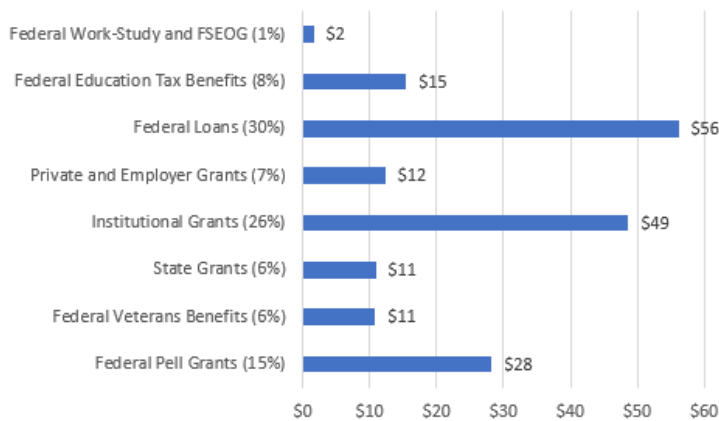




# Federal Student Aid

**R**obust support for federal student aid is key to strengthening the nation’s skilled workforce, innovative capacity, and economic competitiveness. The federal government has long played a pivotal role in ensuring individuals are able to pursue their postsecondary education goals. That commitment has helped previous generations afford college and attain their educational and career goals. Maintaining this commitment is now even more critical since nearly all new jobs created in our economy require some postsecondary education.



Total Undergraduate Student Aid by Source and Type (in billions), 2017-18  
Source: College Board Trends in Student Aid 2018

Federal student aid is an essential element in the nation’s economic growth and prosperity, enabling low-and middle-income students to attend college and current workers to retrain for new careers. For FY20, AAU urges Congress to increase the maximum Pell Grant award to \$6,345. We want to work with Congress to permanently extend the CPI-U adjustment to the discretionary Pell maximum, which expired in FY18 absent Congressional action.

We also urge Congress to protect the integrity of the Pell Grant program by ensuring that any unobligated carryover funds remain in the program to cover un-

## AAU urges Congress to support a maximum Pell Grant award of \$6,345 in FY20

anticipated cost shortfalls in the future. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates over 7.5 million students will use Pell Grants in the coming academic year to finance education.

AAU urges Congress to provide five percent real growth for other federal student aid programs that provide much-needed grants and work-study to low- and middle-income students, improving their chances of graduating. For FY20, AAU recommends the following:

- **At least \$1.028 billion** for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG);
- **At least \$1.434 billion** for Federal Work-Study (FWS); and
- **At least \$48 million** for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program.

*AAU urges Congress to reach a bipartisan budget agreement to lift the Budget Control Act’s harmful discretionary caps in FY20 and FY21 and allow for additional resources to meet the nation’s significant investment needs.*