

2011 Program Report Card: Connecticut Independent College Student Grant (CICSG) (DHE)

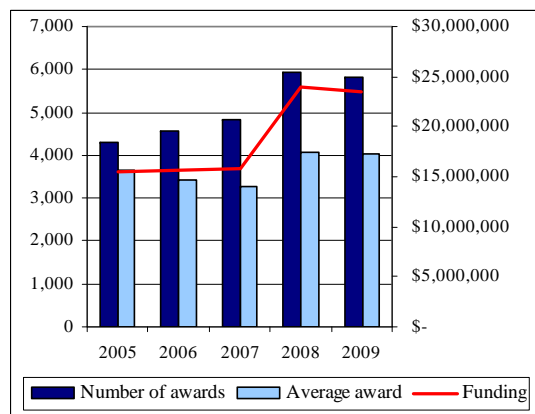
Quality of Life Result: Connecticut residents and the state realize the career advancement and economic benefits of higher education.

Contribution to the Result: The program provides need-based grants to Connecticut residents attending Connecticut independent colleges to help defray the cost of higher education allowing students to remain in school to completion.

Actual SFY 10 Total Program Expenditures: \$23,413,860 **State Funding:** \$23,413,860 **Federal Funding:** \$0 **Other Funding:** \$
Estimated SFY 11 Total Program Expenditures: \$23,413,860 **State Funding:** \$23,413,860 **Federal Funding:** \$0 **Other Funding:** \$

Partners: Connecticut independent colleges and universities

Performance Measure 1: The number of students receiving awards and the average award tendered.

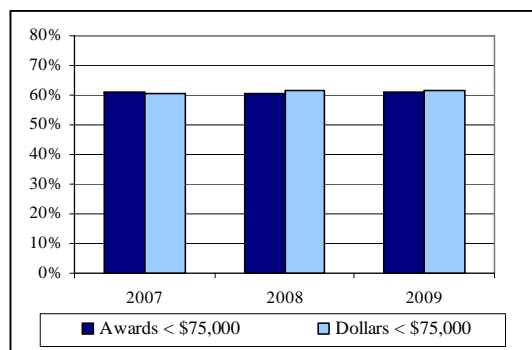


Story behind the baseline: This measure includes awards for five years. 2009 awards ranged from 29 at Lyme Academy of Fine Art to 600 at Goodwin College and averaged from \$1,765 per award at St. Vincent's College to \$6,077 at the University of New Haven. From 2005 to 2008, steady funding resulted in more awards at lower averages. Peak funding in 2008 yielded a sharp increase in number and average. Yale returned in excess of \$500,000 in funding for 2009. Complete 2010 data has not yet been received.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: With the potential for a reduction in funding on the horizon, closer partnerships need to be developed with the independent colleges to create processes and to gather additional information to track recipients. The size and nature of this grant along with new requirements for federal matching funds demand tracking of individual students to ensure that

funding goes to the neediest, that it helps to improve retention and that it contributes to degree completion.

Performance Measure 2: Students with the greatest financial need receive awards first.



Story behind the baseline: The dark blue bar above indicates the percentage of awards made to dependent students with a family income less than \$75,000. The light blue bar indicates the percentage of total funding awarded to dependent students with a family income less than \$75,000. Detailed data for independent students is not available. No data is available on effective family contribution. Roughly 60% of awards and dollars go to this population. This does not compare favorably with other programs where 70% of dollars go to students with family income of \$60,000 or less.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Information on family ability to pay, independent students and a finer breakdown on income levels along with the use of institutional funds would verify that the neediest students are being served first and state

funding is distributed effectively and consistently across all state programs. Also, the distribution of matching institutional funds is currently not detailed. This additional information along with the detail requested for Measure 1 is necessary to measure the resultant use of funds and ensure the accountability of the grant program,

Performance Measure 3: Number of first year recipients retained over years of eligibility.

[No data available]

Story behind the baseline: The measure of awards to the neediest students is a determining factor in the effect on retention and, along with repeated awards, the effect on graduation rates in a timely fashion (measure 4). Retention is a good contributor to completions and the faster the completion, the lower the debt burden.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Request retention rates of CICSG recipients to be used in conjunction with funding distribution and graduation rates to better measure the effectiveness of the contribution and ascertain if the state funding contributes to completion and reduced debt burden

Performance Measure 4: Percentage of recipients graduating in four years and six years.

(No data available)

Story behind the baseline: Four- and six-year graduation rates are the standard measures nationally for successful completions that allow for early entry into the workforce and minimal economic impact from college loan debt. Only overall graduation rates are available for the nineteen institutions participating in the CICSG Program. Graduation rates for CICSG recipients

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Partners: Connecticut independent colleges and universities are not available. The program should be able to measure graduation rates for CICSG recipients compared to non-recipients and total graduation rates, as well as in-state student graduation rates and out-of-state student graduation rates to determine how the award influences completion.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: The additional information to be gathered from the development agenda in the previous measures would include graduation rates, institutional awards and additional information for an extended analysis to assess this measure and determine if recipients parallel other students and what actions, if any, are needed for improvement.

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