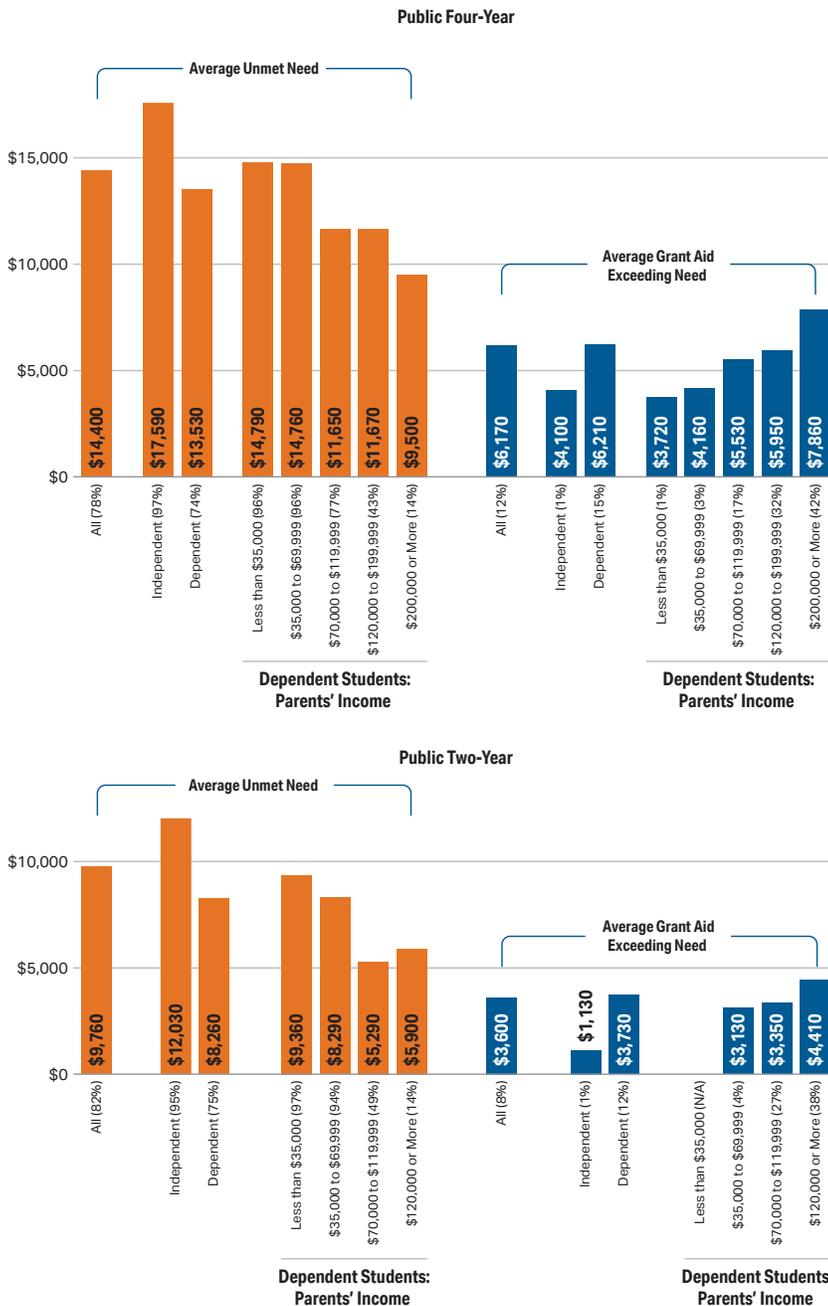


# Grant Aid: Meeting Need—Public Institutions

In 2015-16, 78% of full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities had need remaining after grant aid, averaging \$14,400; 12% received grant aid averaging \$6,170 beyond their documented financial need. The remaining students either had no need and received no grants or had their need exactly met by grant aid.

**FIGURE 18** Average Unmet Need and Average Grant Aid Exceeding Need, Full-Time Students at Public Institutions, 2015-16



- In 2015-16, 82% of full-time students at public two-year colleges had need averaging \$9,760 not met by grant aid; 8% of students received grant aid averaging \$3,600 beyond their documented financial need.
- Both the share of students with need remaining after grant aid and the average amount of this remaining need were highest for lower-income dependent students and independent students.
- At public four-year institutions, 96% of full-time dependent students from families with incomes below \$70,000 had financial need averaging about \$14,800 that had to be met through loans, work, or other sources; 42% of those from families with incomes of \$200,000 or more received grant aid averaging \$7,860 in excess of their documented financial need.
- At both two-year and four-year public institutions, fewer than 5% of dependent students from families with incomes below \$70,000 and of independent students received grant aid that more than covered their financial need.

**ALSO IMPORTANT:**

- Financial need is defined as the difference between students' total budgets (including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and other expenses) and their EFCs.
- Unmet need is usually defined as need remaining after grant aid, federal loans, and federal work-study—a smaller amount than the need remaining after grant aid reported in Figure 18.

Distribution of Full-Time Students, 2015-16

	Public Four-Year	Public Two-Year
Independent Students	17%	34%
Dependent Students	83%	66%
Dependent Students: Parents' Income		
Less than \$35,000	26%	35%
\$35,000 to \$69,999	21%	29%
\$70,000 to \$119,999	25%	23%
\$120,000 or More	28%	12%
\$120,000 to \$199,999	19%	—
\$200,000 or More	9%	—

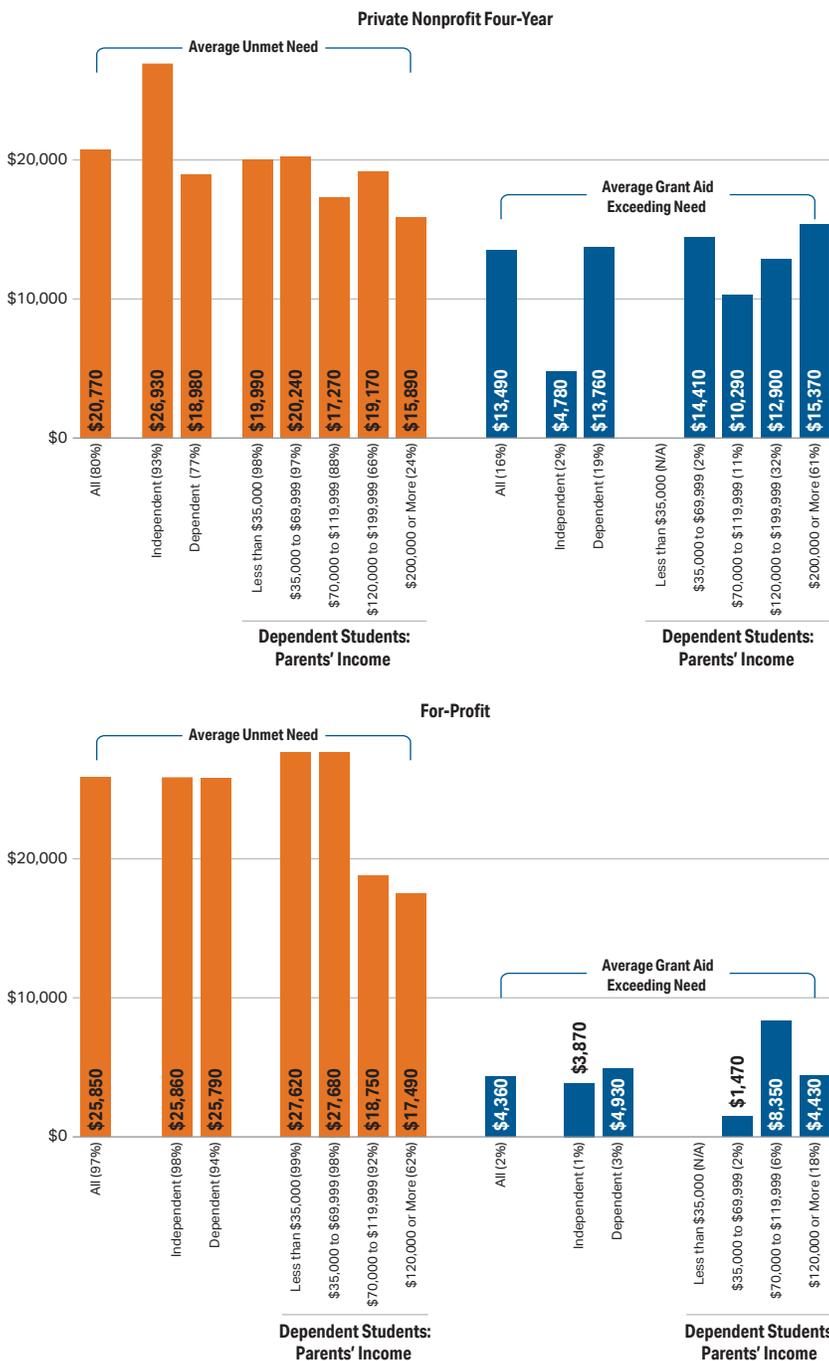
**NOTES:** Percentages on the horizontal axis are shares of students in each income/dependency group with unmet need or with grant aid exceeding need. Students who had no need and received no grant aid or received just enough grant aid to cover their need are not shown in the figure. Includes full-time undergraduate students who were U.S. citizens or permanent residents. N/A and missing bars indicate that sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results.

**SOURCES:** NCES, NPSAS, 2016; calculations by the authors.

# Grant Aid: Meeting Need—Private Institutions

In 2015-16, almost all full-time dependent students from families with incomes below \$70,000 at private nonprofit and for-profit institutions had need remaining after grant aid. That need averaged about \$20,000 at nonprofit and \$28,000 at for-profit institutions.

**FIGURE 19** Average Unmet Need and Average Grant Aid Exceeding Need, Full-Time Students at Private Institutions, 2015-16



- In 2015-16, 80% of full-time students at private nonprofit four-year institutions had need averaging \$20,770 not met by grant aid; 16% of students received grant aid averaging \$13,490 beyond their documented financial need. The remaining students either had no need and received no grants or had their need exactly met by grant aid.
- Only 2% of full-time students at for-profit institutions received grant aid exceeding their documented need; for 97%, the combination of grant aid and expected family contributions left an average of \$25,850 in expenses to be covered by loans, work, or other sources.
- In 2015-16, 61% of full-time dependent students with family incomes of \$200,000 or higher at private nonprofit four-year institutions received an average of \$15,370 more than their documented financial need in grant aid; 24% of students from this income group had an average of \$15,890 in need remaining after grant aid.
- One-third of full-time dependent students with family incomes between \$120,000 and \$199,999 at private nonprofit four-year institutions received an average of \$12,900 more than their documented financial need in grant aid; 66% of students from this income group had an average of \$19,170 in need remaining after grant aid.

**ALSO IMPORTANT:**

- Unmet need is usually defined as need remaining after grant aid, federal loans, and federal work-study—a smaller amount than the need remaining after grant aid reported in Figure 19.

Distribution of Full-Time Students, 2015-16

	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	For-Profit
Independent Students	20%	75%
Dependent Students	80%	25%
Dependent Students: Parents' Income		
Less than \$35,000	19%	49%
\$35,000 to \$69,999	20%	28%
\$70,000 to \$119,999	23%	14%
\$120,000 or More	38%	9%
\$120,000 to \$199,999	23%	—
\$200,000 or More	15%	—

**NOTES:** Percentages on the horizontal axis are shares of students in each income/dependency group with unmet need or with grant aid exceeding need. Includes full-time undergraduate students who were U.S. citizens or permanent residents. N/A and missing bars indicate that sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results.

**SOURCES:** NCES, NPSAS, 2016; calculations by the authors.