

**THE ACTIVE ADVOCACY COALITION**

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**Boost Pell Funding: Indexing and Keeping Dollars Where They’re Needed**

The Pell Grant enables hundreds of thousands of low-income students to afford college each year. During the 2017-2018 year, 129, 274[[1]](#footnote-1) Missouri students received a Pell Grant, more students than any other federal financial aid grant program. However, the Pell Grant has significantly lost its spending power over time. To prevent further decline in spending power policymakers should:

* Direct that carryover funds be applied to increase grant awards for the subsequent year;
* Index the Pell award to inflation in any legislation proposed as part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; and,
* Dollars accumulated in the Pell Grant reserve were intended for low-income students and should be used to help students afford a higher education. It is imperative to keep these dollars in the Pell program.

**Preserve Campus-Based Aid: Work-Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant**

Work-study gives students the opportunity to work part-time to cover college costs. SEOG provides a supplemental grant to Pell recipients with the highest financial need. Campus-based federal aid programs such as these prove to be an important piece of the puzzle students cobble together to finance their education. Over 30,000 Missouri students rely on these programs to persist to gradation. To ensure these dollars are extended where they’re most needed, policymakers should:

* Distribute Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) funds to campuses with the highest concentration of low income students;
* Increase funding to both Federal Work-Study and SEOG.

**Assure Passage of a Clean Dream Act**

Congress must act swiftly to assure passage of a clean DREAM Act in order to protect undocumented young people from deportation and provide opportunity for continued education and work permits. Each day, 122 individuals previously authorized under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are losing their protection. As many as 800,000 individuals depend on this program to safely exist in the United States. A conservative estimate of the individuals in Missouri attending school or working with approval under DACA is 3,500. It is critical that we protect them.



1. [NAICU Federal Student Aid Programs - Missouri](https://www.naicu.edu/policy-advocacy/federal-student-aid-data-sheets/missouri) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)