



Educating Legislators Clinic
WA-SEN

Why do we educate?

- Your personal testimony is your power
- Puts a face to the numbers
- We educate legislators: We bring what is happening on campuses to the members.
- We educate legislative Staff: They make many of the important decisions in the Capitol by directly advising their representative.

Washington State Need Grant

In order to receive SNG:

- Need to be a Washington State resident.
- Have a family income at or below the amounts specified in the following chart:

Family size	Annual income*
1	\$31,500
2	\$41,500
3	\$51,000
4	\$60,500
5	\$70,500
6	\$80,000
7	\$82,000
8	\$84,000
9	\$85,500
10	\$87,500

Further Requirements

- Enroll in an [eligible program](#) with a minimum of three credits as an undergraduate student.
- Pursue a first bachelor's degree, a certificate, or a first associate degree in any field of study excluding theology.
- Not exceed five years of SNG term usage or 125% of enrolled program length.

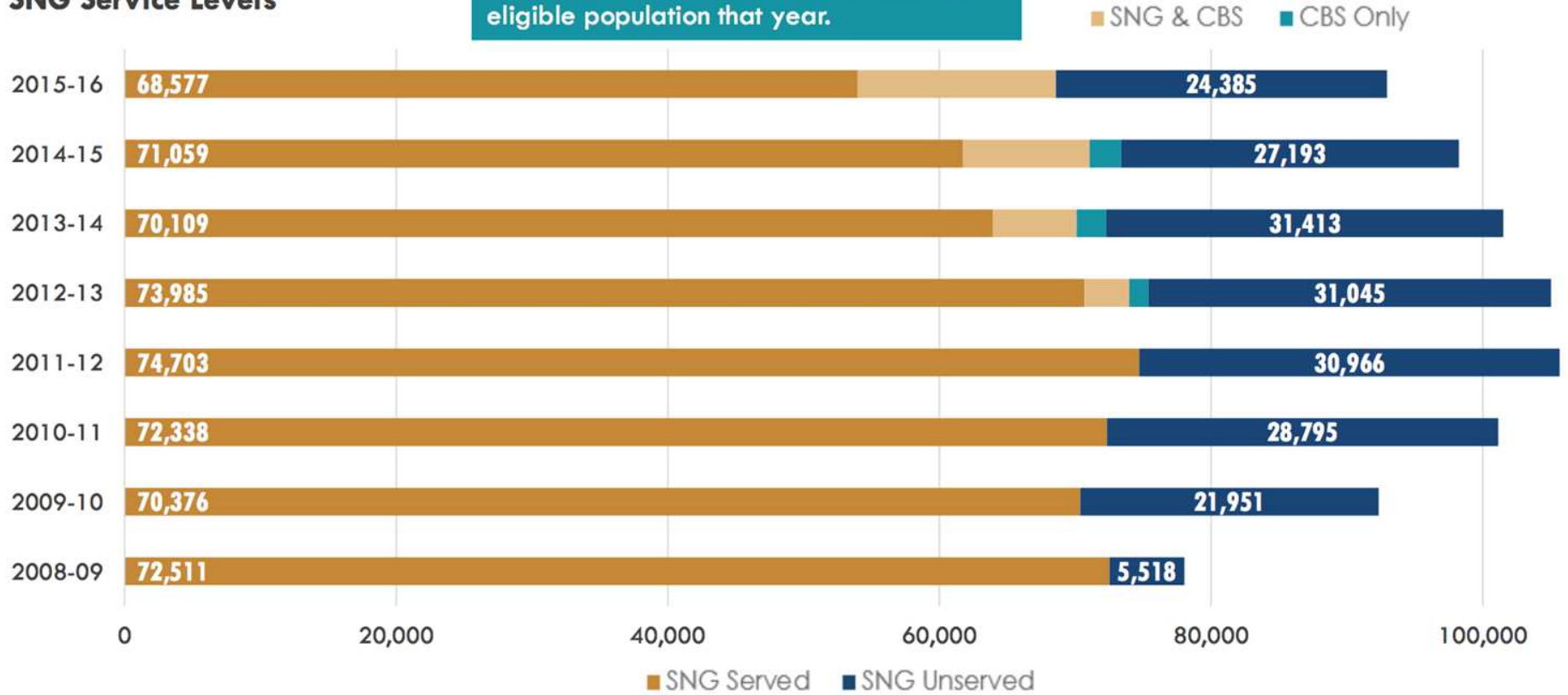
Washington State Need Grant

- Fiscal Year 2017 there was \$217 million appropriated to the SNG, to serve approximately 69,000 students
- However, with the current funding gap that exists, approximately 21,000 students are eligible but do not receive funding.

Fund SNG

SNG Service Levels

The 14,605 CBS recipients in 2015-16 were 16% of the total State Need Grant eligible population that year.



DREAMers and WA SNG

As of 2014, State Need Grant funding was available to non-citizens who meet the residency requirements established in HB 1079: RCW 28B.15.012(2)(e)

- Has completed the full senior year at a Washington high school and obtained a diploma or a GED® (GED for State Need Grant and Passport to College).
- Has lived in Washington State for at least three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent.
- Signs a written affidavit to apply to become a permanent resident of the United States, when eligible.

As of 2015, State Need Grant, Passport to College, and College Bound Scholarship are available to students who have DACA status:

- Must meet the same residency requirements as U.S. citizen (typically a family living in the state for one year prior to college).
- Must provide DACA documentation to college financial aid office.
- Eligibility for College Bound Scholarship still restricted to those who successfully applied in 7th or 8th grade.

WA SNG - New Funding

- In the 2017-19 biennium budget, the state legislature appropriated new funds to serve 875 more students on the SNG.
- Make sure to thank legislators for that new funding.

Other SNG talking points and influences

They say:	We say:
“Would you want a tuition decrease/freeze or would you like the state legislature to increase funding to the State Need Grant?”	“We can’t say we choose one over the other. Both funding the SNG and reducing the overall costs of attendance increases the affordability and access of our higher education institutions.”
“Where do you suggest that we get the funds to fill this gap?”	“We know that the legislature has a lot of other legislative priorities that require funding. We are here to make the case for a more affordable system of higher education, and we think the SNG is a great way to achieve that goal.”

Other SNG talking points and influences

They say:	We say:
“I don’t support entitlements, I want to support middle class students and would rather work on lowering tuition and other college costs”	“If SNG is fully funded, schools don’t have to try and get low income student funding from other sources such as tuition waivers or grants. When SNG eligible students are funded through SNG, then grants and tuition waivers are freed up for middle income students”
“There should be GPA requirements in place to make sure top performing students get funding to keep going”	“State Need Grant is a need based program and we support keeping it that way. There are other programs such as College Bound that require a certain GPA throughout high school in order to get funding”
“I believe that we should be funneling students toward high demand degrees in STEM fields. We should be prioritizing SNG funds students pursuing these degrees”	“We believe that students should be able to choose the field of study that best fits them regardless of their income level. There are programs, such as the Opportunity Scholarship, that prioritize funding for low income students in STEM majors”

Other SNG talking points and influences

Legislators care about the workforce.

- In order to meet Washington's education attainment goals there needs to be increased access and affordability to our post-secondary institutions.
- By 2023, of adults ages 25-44 in Washington: 70% will need to have post-secondary credentials

The Visit

- In your meetings, we want you to always be comfortable, both in the setting and in the materials you are advocating with. Please make sure to review everything several times before you go into the meeting.
- Visits tend to be very cordial and pass by quicker than you think.
- Expect the legislator to try and control the meeting at the beginning
- Sometimes there can be a meeting with a legislator that gets off track but there are ways to bounce back and keep your agenda going

4 Roles

Facilitator

- keeps meeting on agenda points
- initiates introduction and agenda

Note-taker

- takes down key points from meeting
- notes legislative commitments
- keeps note of questions asked

Presenters

- introduce State Need Grant
- provides facts and evidence

Testimonials

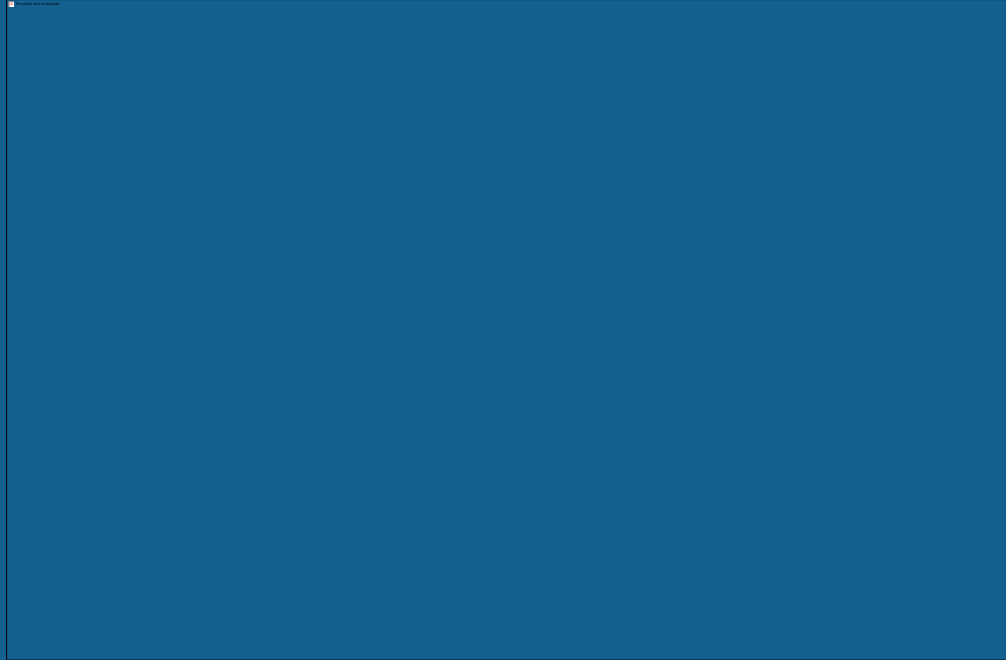
- gives personal story on the impact of the State Need Grant

Sometimes you might have to play
multiple roles!

Helpful Tips for your Visit

- Be prepared
- Have control of the meeting
- Know your legislator
- Assign roles strategically
- Don't lie!
- Be flexible
- Don't talk in the elevators or hallways
- Keep technology put away
- Debrief your visit

How to Avoid Awkward Pauses



Practice, practice, practice! Run through your visit, nail down transitions, and time yourselves.