

WHY FINANCIAL AID AND COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY MATTER FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY



"The value of a postsecondary education is important for not just students who receive a credential, but also their families, communities, and broader society. If postsecondary education can increase the number of students of color and students from low-income backgrounds it will have a tangible payoff for society in terms of a stronger economy, a more diverse and prepared workforce, and a healthier, happier, and more civically engaged populace."

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Postsecondary Value Commission



More likely to be employed, even during economic downturns

Rely less on social safety nets and subsidies

Have greater earnings and disposable income

Drive innovation and entrepreneurship

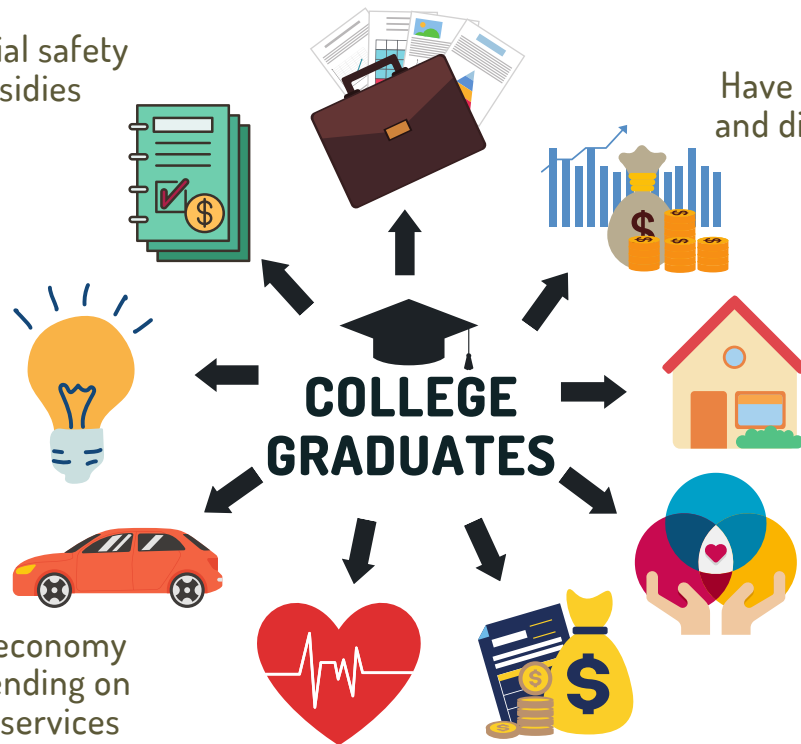
Have greater rates of home ownership

Boost the local economy with greater spending on local goods and services

Are more civically engaged: voting, volunteering, and philanthropy

Experience better physical and mental health outcomes

Provide greater tax contributions

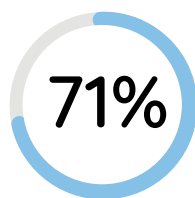




FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS ARE ONE OF THE STRONGEST PREDICTORS OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND KEY TO BOOSTING THE REGION'S EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Students should apply early!
Federal aid is first-come, first-served!

[STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov)



71% of college grads remain in our region.

- Regions that retain their college grads enjoy many short and long-term advantages. The Inland Empire is one of the TOP-TEN large metro areas in the U.S. for retaining college graduates.
- With only 57% of Inland Empire high school grads attending college and less than half completing applications for federal aid, we need everyone in the community working together to support greater postsecondary enrollment.
- Federal aid applications lead to increased college enrollment and brings an influx of cash to local cities; financial aid does not just go to institutions but also to students who use it to purchase food, housing, clothes, equipment, and more.
- California tax payers receive \$4.50 in return for every \$1.00 invested in students who graduate from a California community college.
- Federal aid also supports displaced workers seeking training that will drive our state's economic recovery and fuel in-demand industries.



High school seniors who apply for financial aid are 84% more likely to enroll in college (students in the lowest SES are 127% more likely).



Over 20% of likely eligible community college students do not receive financial aid. Hundreds of millions in dollars go unclaimed each year that could be flowing into California. Last year over \$5.6 million in California federal aid was left unclaimed.

Scan the QR code to access our Inland Empire financial aid tracker

