Harvard Graduate School of Education
Monica Chan, Ph.D. Candidate
Prof. Bridget Terry Long, Ph.D.
Consultants

3. Improve college affordability
2. Close the achievement gap between groups of students
1. Decrease students' time to earning a postsecondary degree

The Commonwealth Forward on Three Goals:
Consolidating state-funded financial aid programs to move
consolidating state-funded financial aid programs to move
and funded by The Lumina Foundation
and funded by The Lumina Foundation
and funded by The New England Board of Higher Education
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``Reforming State Aid in New England Initiative,``
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The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study

Project Overview
Projected demographic and socioeconomic changes

Forecasts future state financial aid needs based on families
Identifies opportunities to simplify the aid process for

Identifies opportunities to create efficiencies programs are meeting residents’ needs
Analyzes the extent to which current financial aid

Study Outcomes

Project Overview
The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
They add a layer of complexity to the aid system.

In addition to grants, we offer a large number of tuition waivers, which vary by institutional sector.

Vary in whether they are available at private colleges.

Vary in whether they are available at private colleges.

Workforce related (e.g., teachers, Dept. of Children and Families).

Many are not need-based and instead focus on particular groups (e.g., teachers, Dept. of Children and Families).

Most are funded from the General Fund or Tuition Revenue.

Funding sources and administrative oversight.

Great deal of variation in eligibility requirements.

31 different state financial aid programs.

Current Aid Portfolio (see handout)

The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
How well does our aid system support students to be able to afford higher education?

Median Educational Costs & Grant Aid, FY2014

The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
Grant received a MASS Grant, 70% of Need-based Waiver recipients also received a MASS Grant. 68% of Cash Grant aid programs. These state need-based need not receive any of institutional, 13% did enrolled at a public eligible, Pell-eligible, FT/FTY students. Among Pell-eligible, Pell-eligible, FY 2014 Overlap in State Need-Based Grant Awards The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
Grant received a MASS recipient alsoGilbert Grant
73% of Gilbert Grant
MASS Grant or the
not receive the
institution, 18% did
enrolled at a public
full-year students
eligible full-time
among all Pell-

Overlap in State Need-Based Grant Awards
The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
### Need-Based Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Amount/FTE Student</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
<th>Total Need-Based Grant Dollars</th>
<th>% to Primary Program</th>
<th>Mean per Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>$1,316</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$366,684,212</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>$4,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>$1,228</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$385,285,704</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>$4,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$1,045</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,020,584,424</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>$3,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$987</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$1,671,953,616</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$5,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>$870</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$270,443,768</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>$2,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>$825</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$326,540,688</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>$2,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>$548</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$20,430,048</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>$1,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>$495</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$126,037,792</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>$1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>$349</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$87,561,408</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>$1,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>$321</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$60,641,048</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$1,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>$320</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$96,362,152</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>$1,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>$288</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>$146,708,148</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>$4,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>$267</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$111,633,436</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>$652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>$189</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>$11,921,059</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$649</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- MA is ranked #25
- #1 spends nearly **FIVE** times as much per student as MA
- A much **smaller** fraction of our need-based aid is dispersed through our primary program

Source: National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) 45th Annual Survey Data.
2. To improve the aid system, more support is needed.

Is there a benchmark we should use across institutions?

What should be the state role? What should be expected of institutional resources?

What is a reasonable amount of unmet need?

Especially hard to handle for low-income students is still substantial in the Commonwealth and after all sources of institutional aid, unmet financial need.

Opportunities for Improvement

Study Conclusions

The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
Could the same goals be accomplished with a simpler approach? What programs havng so many targeted systems? How difficult is it for a family to navigate our website...
Reduce burden and uncertainty for families

families might expect to receive

Increase transparency and the ability to publicize what

Make administrative oversight easier

Could consolidation:

Simpler approach?

could the same goals be reached using a much

There is significant overlap among multiple programs—

Should we consolidate some of the aid programs?

Study Conclusions

The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
(smaller programs should be listed at the bottom and make sure they are highly visible)

In communications (e.g., the website), prioritize the larger programs and more progressive aid programs (similar to other states)

Consolidate need-based aid programs to build a singular, more comprehensive aid program and accomplish the same goals?

Examine one-off programs—Could they be folded into recent years?

Collapse/remove waivers that have not been used in

Should we consolidate some of the aid programs?

Study Conclusions

The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
Must balance with unmet need that already exists
E.g. Lessons from other aid programs/states

Piloting other Ideas?

status
reconsidering tuition waiver programs and associated state
Anticipate changes to tuition retention policies by
Differential impact on student decisions?

Grants ≠ Tuition Waivers

Other Issues to Consider

Study Conclusions
The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next Steps</th>
<th>The Massachusetts State Financial Aid Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of any approved changes would become effective for the 2018-2019 academic year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related modifications to BHE in the fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bringing recommendations for new financial aid policy and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect feedback campuses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share study results over the next 3-4 months with the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>