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# OREGON PROMISE: YEAR 1 AND THE START OF YEAR 2

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DATA  
OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCESS AND COMPLETION

Date: January 11, 2018

Presented to: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

# THE OREGON PROMISE: YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

## The program achieved core goals

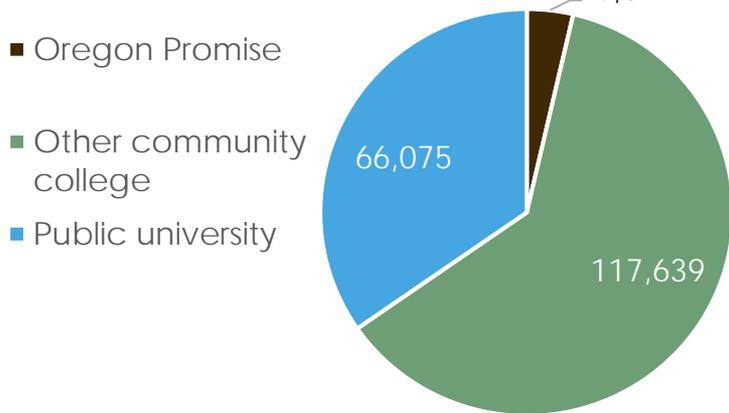
- More high school graduates enrolled in college
- More federal student aid came into Oregon
- Affordability increased for students
- Students fulfilled program requirements at a high rate
- Students continued into a second year of college at a high rate

## Opportunities for further support

- Some students missed a term, eliminating eligibility
- Some students missed other requirements
- Program funding

# OREGON PROMISE CONSTITUTES A SMALL PROPORTION OF STUDENTS AND GRANTS

## Number of students, fall 2016

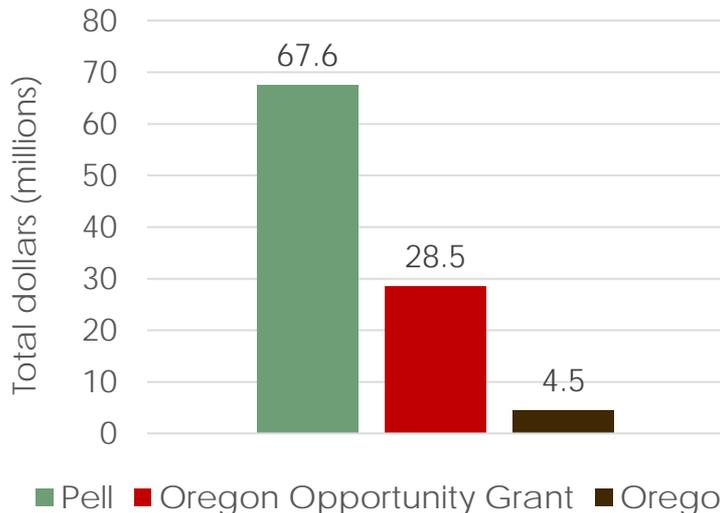


Oregon Promise students totaled:

- 5.5% of community college students
- 3.6% of all public higher education students

fall 2016

## Dollars awarded, fall 2016



Oregon Promise grants totaled:

- 13.6% of all state grant dollars
- 6.7% of state and federal grant dollars

Oregon Promise grants totaled 7.0% of all federal and state grants

fall 2016

# MORE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE, AND THEY TOOK MORE CREDITS

## Estimate of Oregon Promise impact on community college enrollment

Recent high school graduates and recent GED completers enrolled in community college, 6+ credits	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
All students age 18			
Number enrolled	9,990	10,272	11,467
Percentage of all 18 year olds enrolled	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>
Average number of credits	11.6	11.5	11.9

Fewer freshmen at public universities<sup>1</sup>:  
 2014: 19.2%  
 2015: 19.4%  
 2016: 17.9%

Total community college enrollment and the college-going rate of high school graduates both fell in these years

Source: HECC analysis of Oregon community college student records; excludes 18 year-olds taking dual-credit classes. <sup>1</sup>University enrollment is from fall term, fourth week and includes first-time, full-time freshmen who graduated from any Oregon high school in the previous academic year that they enrolled in a public university. Number of all 18-year olds comes from the U.S. Census at <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>



# MOST STUDENTS IN COHORT 1 COMPLETED ALL REQUIREMENTS

70% of fall recipients

- ✓ Enrolled for three terms
- ✓ Enrolled in at least 6 credits each term
- ✓ Completed the first-year experience

## Retention and term requirements

- 87 percent of fall students enrolled in winter term
- 74 percent of fall students enrolled 3 consecutive terms

## First-year course requirement

- 94 percent of those who enrolled in all three terms completed the first-year experience course
- An additional one percent completed it fall 2017

## Course load

- Among those enrolled for three terms:
  - 71 percent enrolled full time in all three terms
  - 25 percent enrolled full time in one or two terms

# HOWEVER, SOME STUDENTS DID NOT FULFILL REQUIREMENTS, USUALLY MISSING A TERM

**30% of students did not complete all requirements**

- Nearly all missed one or more terms of enrollment
  - 44 percent missed winter and spring term
  - 50 percent missed spring term
- 94 percent of students who missed a term had not met the 90-credit limit

**Some students applied for a second year of the program and were denied**

Reason for denial	Number of students
Not consecutively enrolled in prior year <sup>1</sup>	2,124
Attempted 90 or more total college credits	157
First year experience not met	119
FAFSA/ORSAA filed late <sup>2</sup>	76
Rejected FAFSA	47
Other reasons	68
Total	2,591

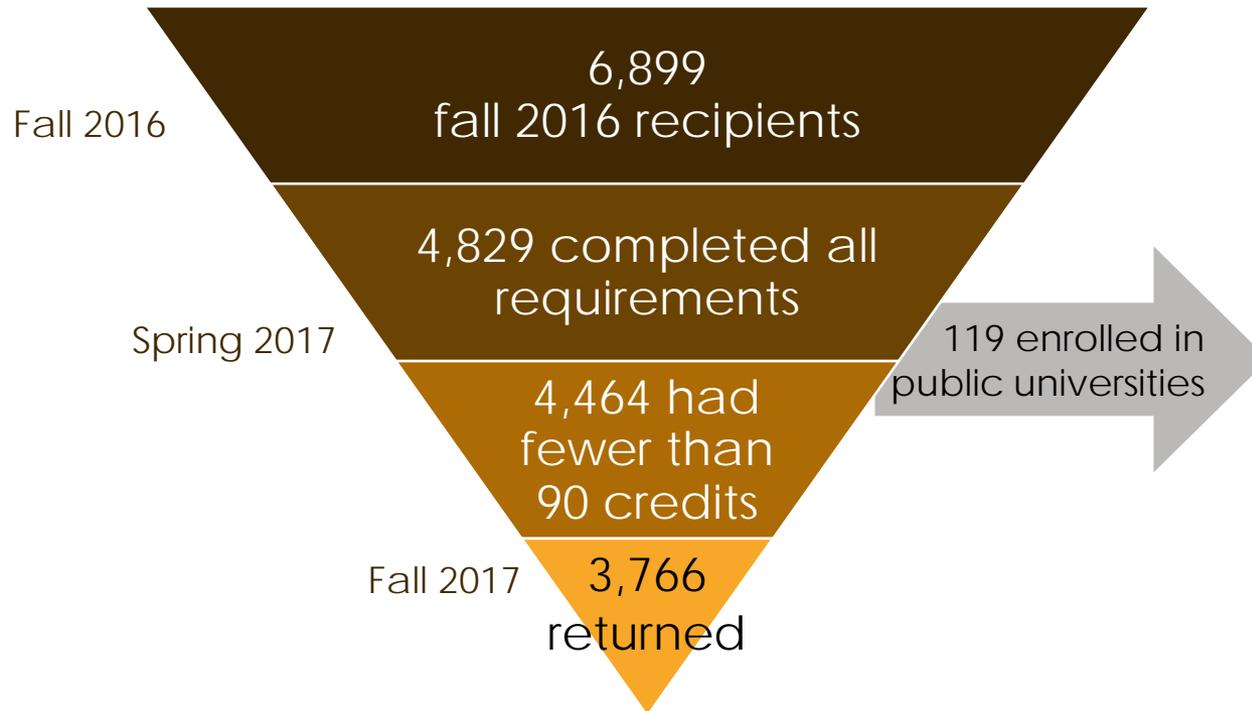
Applications can be denied for more than one reason

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Of these 2,124 students, 1,408 students had 1 or more other reasons for not being renewed, in addition to not being consecutively enrolled during the prior award year.

<sup>2</sup>The Oregon Promise deadline to file the 2017-18 FAFSA/ORSAA was 7/14/17.

Source: HECC analysis of Oregon Promise recipient and public university student records, as of December 2017.

# NEARLY ALL STUDENTS WITH REMAINING ELIGIBILITY RETURNED FOR YEAR 2

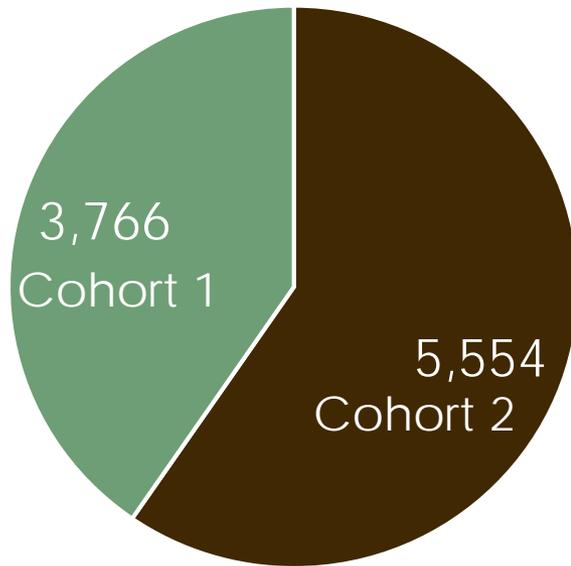


**84%** of Cohort 1 students who completed all requirements and were not at the 90-credit limit returned in year 2

An additional **9%** (424 students) had less than one full term of remaining eligibility at the end of year 1 (fewer than 12 credits)

# THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PROGRAM COMBINES STUDENTS FROM BOTH COHORTS

Oregon Promise recipients, fall 2017



- Cohort 1 had more students in its initial term (6,899) than Cohort 2 has in its first term
- However, because not all Cohort 1 students continued, they comprise less than half of all recipients in fall 2017

## Program changes

- Grants for Cohort 2 are available only for students who do not have the highest expected family contributions (EFC)
- Expanded eligibility for students in certain circumstances

# PROGRAM CHANGES LED TO SOME DIFFERENCES IN THE APPLICATION FUNNELS

## Year 1 to Year 2 changes

- **Applicants** ↓ about 18 percent, at least partly because of greater understanding
- **Awardees** ↓ about 15 percent, at least partly because of the EFC limit
- **Recipients** ↓ about 22 percent, at least partly because of the EFC limit

2016-17

19,223 Oregon Promise applications submitted

10,732 applicants met eligibility requirements, completed a valid FAFSA or ORSAA and listed at least one Oregon Community College

6,899 students received the grant

1,204 enrolled in public universities

- Total disbursed: \$4.5M
- Average grant size: \$650

2017-18

15,840 Oregon Promise applications submitted

2,172 applicants ineligible due to the EFC limit alone

10,784

8,869 applicants met all eligibility requirements, completed a valid FAFSA or ORSAA and listed at least one Oregon Comm. College

5,554 students received the grant in fall

1,100 enrolled in public universities

- Total disbursed: \$5.8M
- Average grant size: \$617

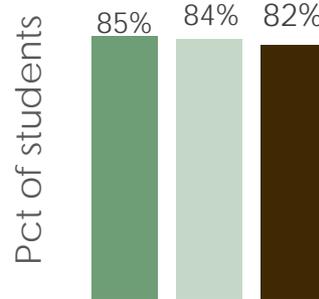
# IN MANY WAYS, STUDENTS FROM COHORT 1 AND COHORT 2 ARE QUITE SIMILAR ...

 Cohort 1, fall 2016

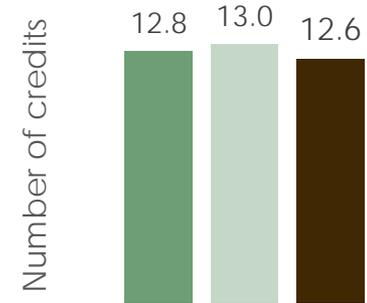
 Cohort 1, fall 2017

 Cohort 2, fall 2017

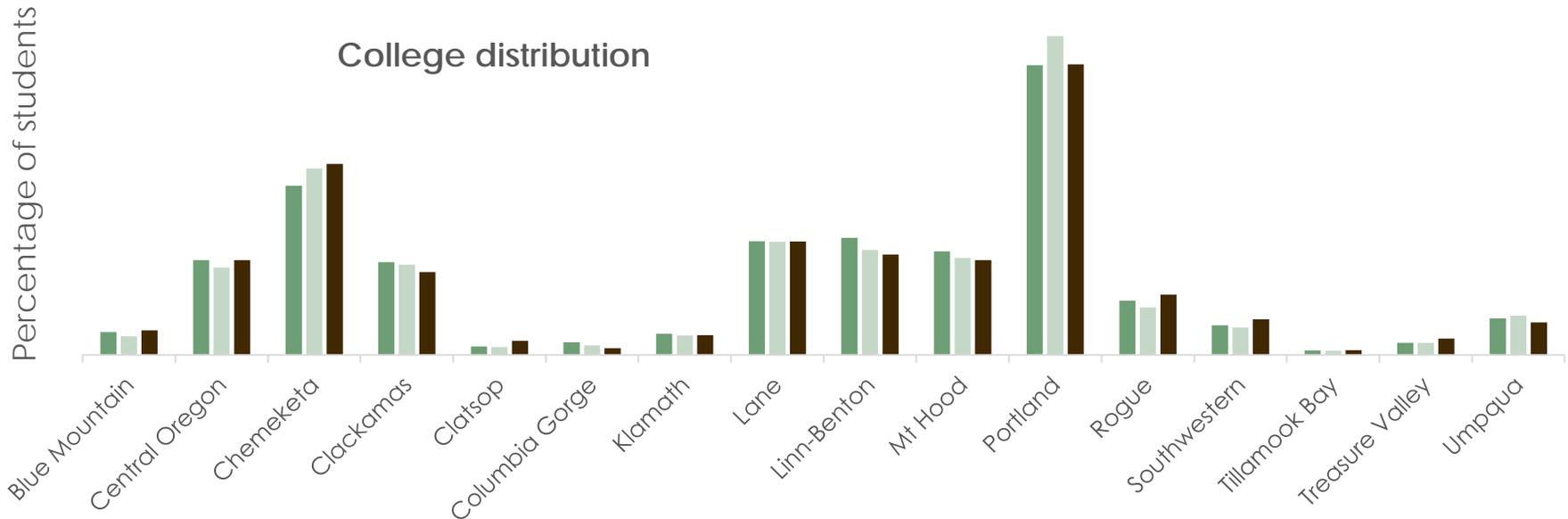
Full-time enrollment



Average course load



College distribution

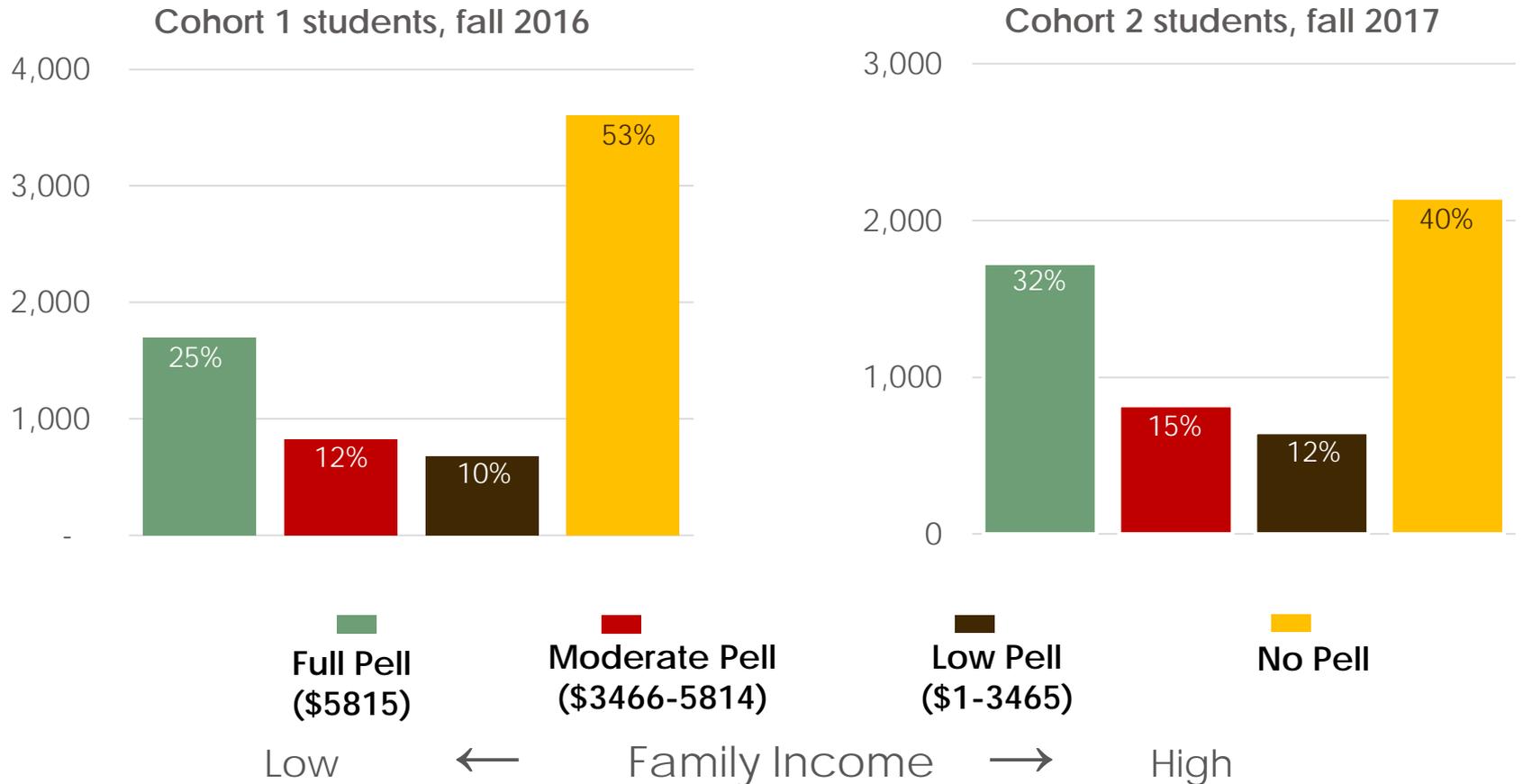


Source: HECC analysis of Oregon Promise recipient records as of December 2017.

Note: Recipients from Oregon Coast Community College are processed through Portland Community College

# ...BUT THE INCOME CAP RESULTS IN DIFFERENCES BY INCOME

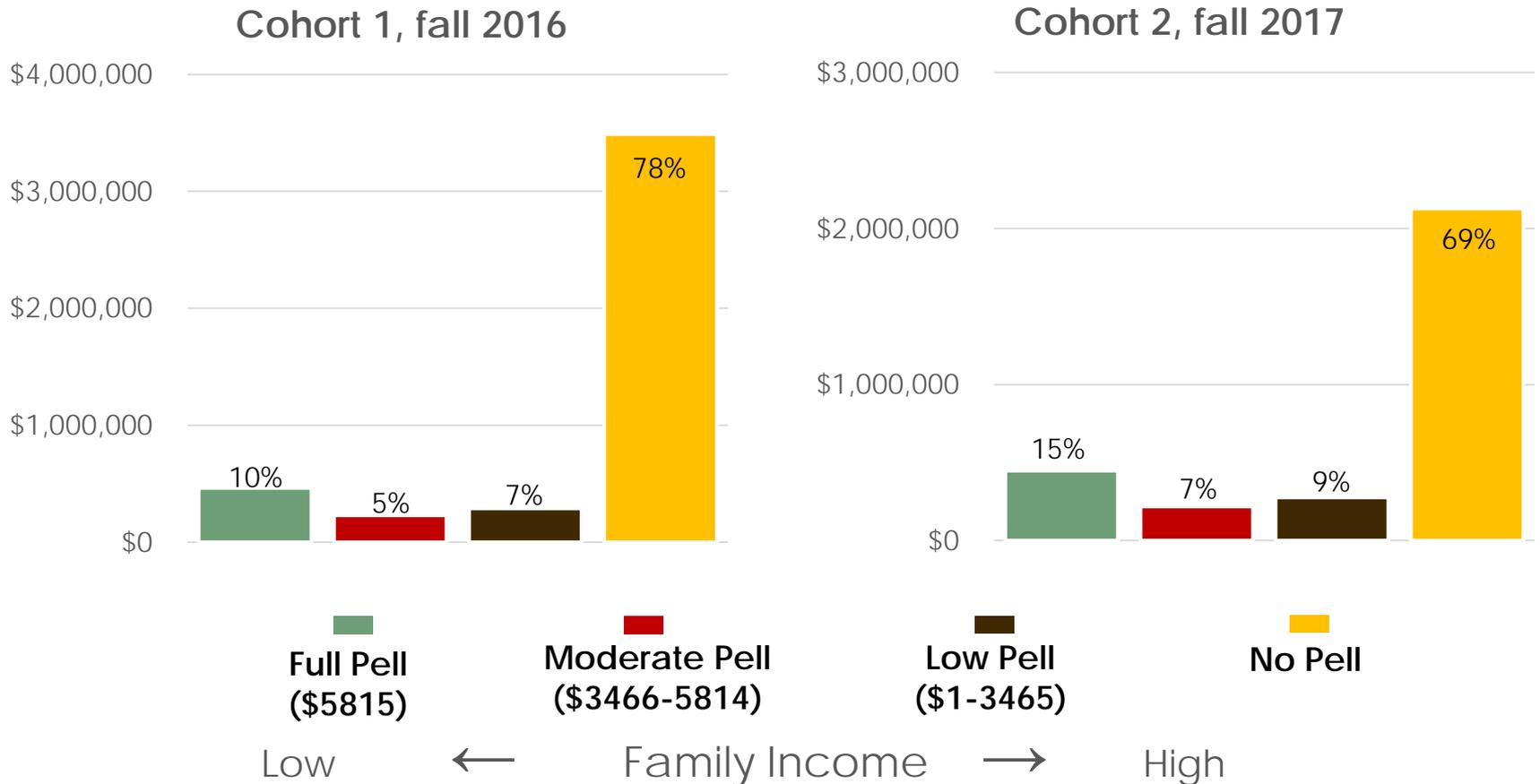
## Oregon Promise grants awarded, by Pell grant amount and cohort



Source: HECC analysis of Oregon Promise recipient records for fall terms, 2016 and 2017 as of December 2017.  
 Note: Number of students totals 6,891 for Cohort 1 and 5,340 for Cohort 2.

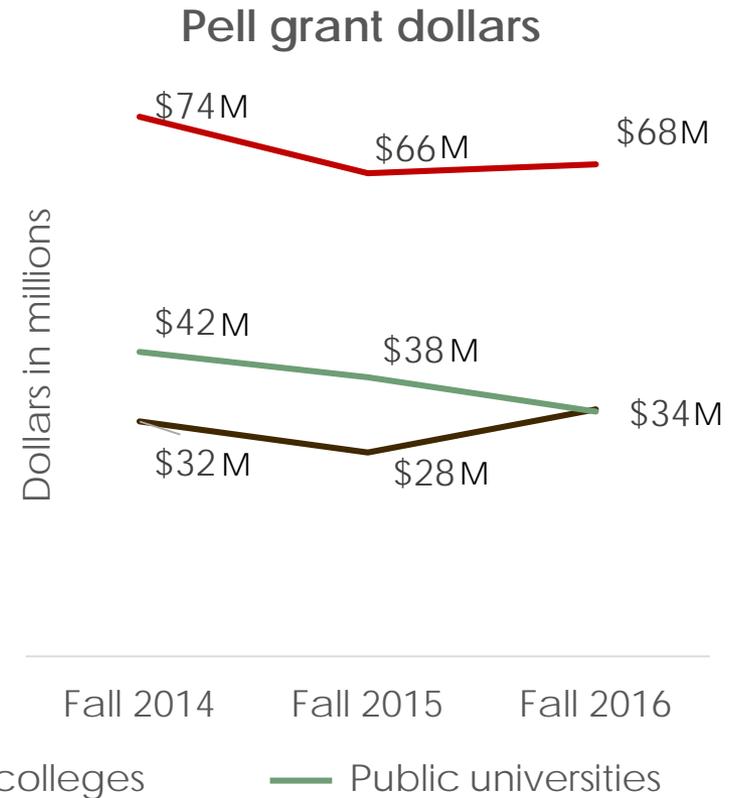
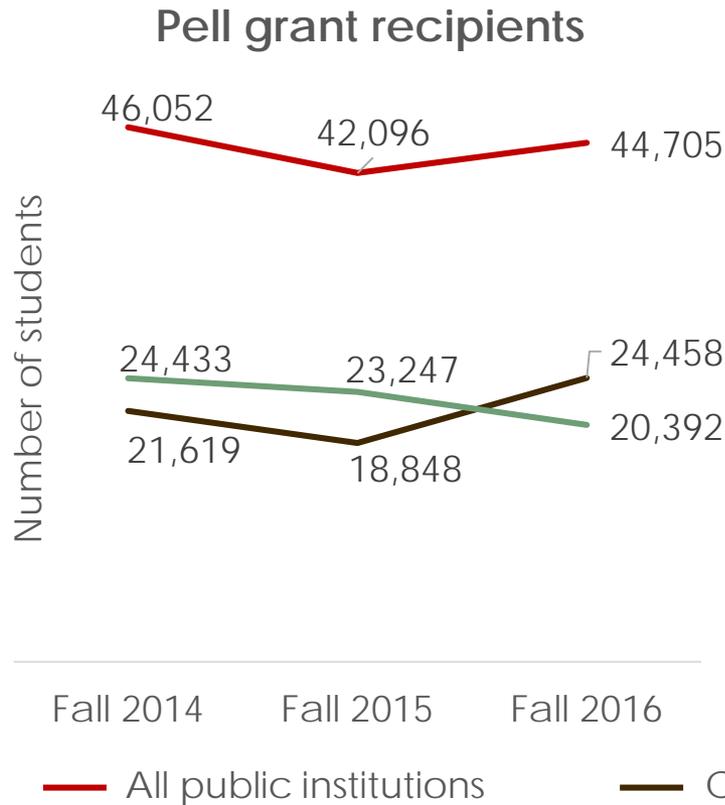
# THE INCOME CAP ALSO RESULTS IN DIFFERENCES IN EXPENDITURE BY INCOME

Oregon Promise dollars awarded, by Pell grant amount and cohort



Source: HECC analysis of Oregon Promise recipient records for fall terms, 2016 and 2017 as of December 2017.  
 Note: Number of students totals 6,891 for Cohort 1 and 5,340 for Cohort 2.

# THE "LAST DOLLAR" NATURE OF THE PROGRAM MAXIMIZES FEDERAL AID, WHICH HAS RISEN



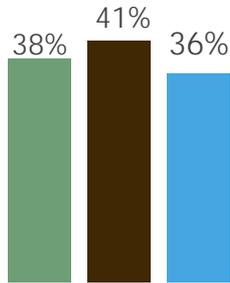
Oregon Promise students received an estimated:

- \$5.2M of Pell grants in fall 2016
- \$8.1M of Pell grants in fall 2017

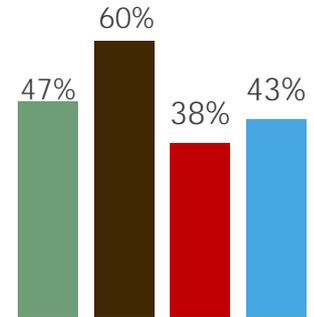
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Title IV Program Volume Reports, <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/student/title-iv> and HECC analysis of Oregon Promise student records as of December 2017.

# ...AND IMPACTS ON EQUITY ARE MIXED

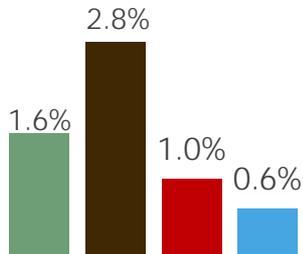
## First-generation college



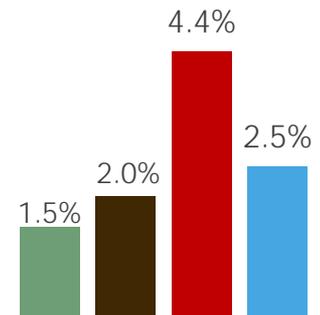
## Pell recipients



## ORSAA filers



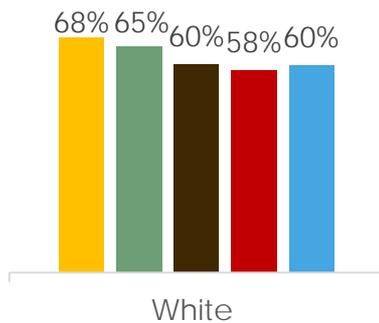
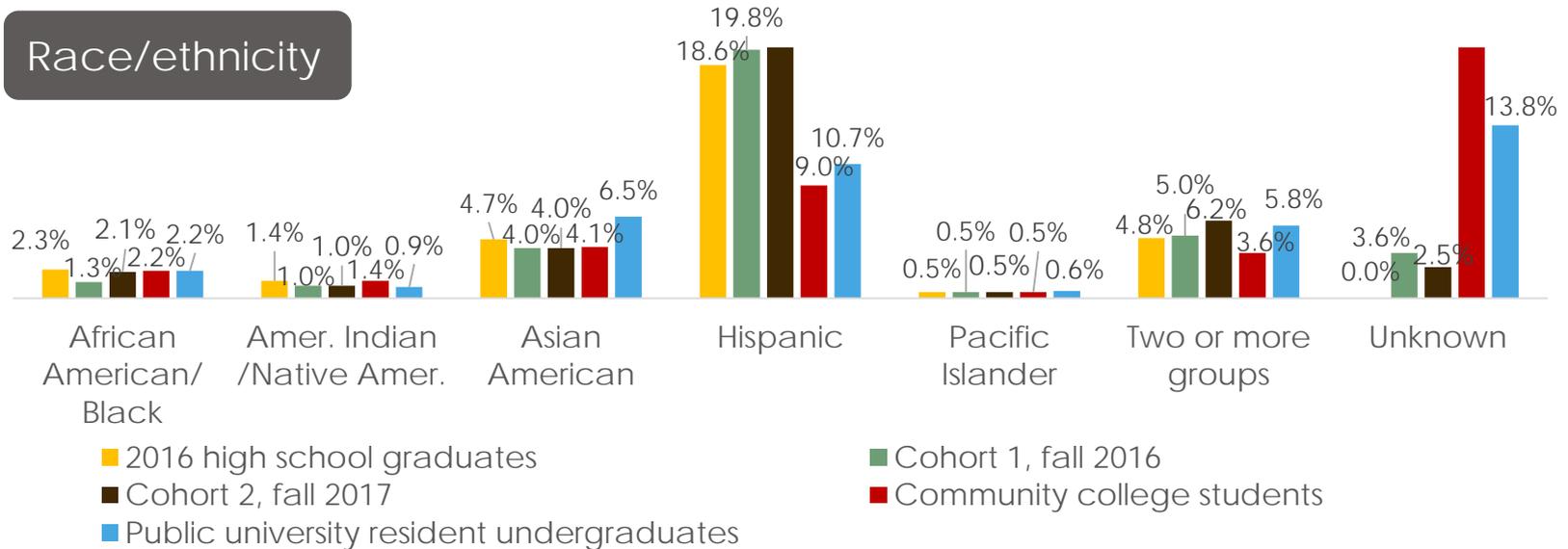
## GED completers



Source: HECC analysis of Oregon Promise recipient and university student records as of December 2017.

# ...AND IMPACTS ON EQUITY ARE MIXED

## Race/ethnicity



- Representation of African American, Hispanic, and multi-racial students is higher in Cohort 2 than in Cohort 1
- Differences in definitions limit conclusions
  - Hispanic students have comparable proportions between Oregon Promise and high school graduates, but comparisons with college and university students are difficult

\*Note: Public high school students or their families identify students' racial-ethnic groups. If they decline to choose a racial/ethnic group, school staff choose students' racial-ethnic group. Oregon Promise students self-identify their own race-ethnicity on their FAFSA, and 3.5 percent of these declined to choose a racial/ethnic group.

Source: Oregon Department of Education data on high school seniors and graduates. HECC data on Oregon Promise recipients as of December 2017. 15

# KEY FINDINGS

Policy impact	Key findings
College access and completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community college enrollment among recent high school graduates rose in the first year of the program</li> <li>• The great majority of students enrolled in the first year of Oregon Promise continued into the second year (93 percent), provided they met the requirements and were not at or near the 90-credit limit</li> <li>• Some students did not continue, either within the first year or into the second year, suggesting additional need for outreach</li> </ul>
Federal funding support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide, the number and dollar amount of Pell grants rose in the first year of the program, and program changes indicate this rise will continue into the second year</li> </ul>
Equity gaps continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to program eligibility between the first and second years raised the share of students eligible for a Pell grant (i.e., come from lower-income families) from 47 percent to 60 percent</li> <li>• Most Oregon Promise dollars go to students not eligible for Pell grants, although the percentage fell from 78 to 69 with the changes to program eligibility</li> <li>• Students in most racial/ethnic minority groups are represented among Oregon Promise recipients in similar proportions as among public high school graduates, especially within the second cohort, but differences in definitions limit conclusions</li> </ul>