



# **Workforce Incentive Grant**

**July 29, 2022**

**Prepared by the NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs  
for presentation to the  
Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education**

# Today's Presentation

- Governor Sisolak's Commitment
- Existing State-Supported Financial Aid Programs (GGMS, SSOG, NPS)
  - Program characteristics
  - Disbursements
  - Unmet state and student needs
- Proposed Workforce Incentive Grant
  - Targeted occupations
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Award amounts
  - Reporting
  - Timeline

# Governor Sisolak's Commitment

On March 22, 2022, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak announced he has aside up to \$5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward the goal to explore ways to make community college or other apprentice and training programs free for more Nevadans by 2025....The federal funding, as set aside from the Governor, will help kickstart any initial recommendations from the AB450 Committee.

*"A high school education isn't enough, and we should recognize that it's no longer 'pre-school through grade 12,' but at least 'pre-school through community college or other post high school training.'"*  
-Governor Steve Sisolak



# Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS)

## First Awarded in 2000-01

- **Target population:** high-achieving recent high-school graduates (merit-based)
- **Eligibility window:** six years after high school graduation (with limited exceptions)
- **Enrollment requirement:** minimum at community colleges is 9 credits per semester
- **Award amount:** calculated at a tier-specific per-credit rate, maximum annual amount is \$1,200 (fall/spring, community college, lower division)
- **Cap:** maximum of \$10,000 over entire eligibility period
- **Funding:** Tobacco Settlement and State General Fund (all eligible students are funded)

# Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG)

## First Awarded in 2015-16

- **Target population:** students with high financial need who are college ready in math and English (need-based)
- **Eligibility window:** no time or age limit
- **Enrollment requirement:** minimum is 12 credits per semester, but those in 15 credits are funded first
- **Award amount:** maximum \$5,500 per year, based on a shared responsibility model that considers full cost of attendance
- **Cap:** No limit on number of years an award can be received
- **Funding:** State General Fund via Treasurer's Office (funding limited based on legislative appropriation)



# Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS)

## First Awarded in 2018-19

- **Target population:** recent high school graduates who don't have other aid to cover their registration fees ("last dollar" – neither merit-nor need-based)
- **Eligibility window:** up to three years following high school graduation or until they have earned an associate degree
- **Enrollment requirement:** minimum is 12 credits per semester
- **Award amount:** based on registration plus mandatory fees not covered by other state or federal aid
- **Cap:** No limit on award amounts for semester or entire eligibility period
- **Funding:** State General Fund via Treasurer's Office (funding limited based on legislative appropriation)

# State Program Disbursements to Students 2020-21

## Four-Year Institutions

Program	Students	Dollars
GGMS	20,392	\$39,186,277
SSOG (NSC only)	439	\$1,163,925
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>20,807</b>	<b>40,350,202</b>

## Two-Year Institutions

Program	Students	Dollars
GGMS	6,435	\$4,557,266
SSOG	1,214	\$3,388,123
NPS	1,395	\$2,794,157
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9,044</b>	<b>10,739,546</b>

Only 21% of state financial aid dollars are expended on students at NSHE's two-year institutions, yet students at these institutions account for 49.9% of undergraduate degree-seeking student headcount (IPEDS 12-month enrollment, 2020-21).

This is one important reason to focus a new state financial aid program on students at NSHE's community colleges.



# Workforce Incentive Grant (WIG)

- The WIG pilot proposal was developed to fulfill the unmet needs of the State and students
  - Need-based support for more Nevadans
    - Returning adult students
    - Part-time students
  - Statewide financial aid program targeted to attract students to critical workforce programs, including nursing, teaching and other in-demand occupations
    - [GOED In-Demand Regional Analyses](#)
- On June 7, 2022 the AB 450 Committee recommended adoption of the WIG pilot, contingent upon funding



# WIG Student Eligibility

- To be eligible students must
  - Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate for an eligible in-demand occupation at an NSHE community college;
  - Enroll in at least six (6) credit hours that apply to the student's chosen program of study;
  - Be classified as a resident for tuition purposes;
  - Meet institutional Title IV financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements;
  - Have not previously earned a bachelor's degree; and
  - Be Pell Eligible (or low income for non-FAFSA filers)

# Targeted Occupations

- Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) – [In-Demand Regional Analyses](#)
- In-demand occupations will be mapped to degree and certificate programs at NSHE's community colleges

## [Central Nevada](#)

GBC

WNC

## [Northeastern Nevada](#)

GBC

## [Northern Nevada](#)

TMCC

WNC

## [Southern Nevada](#)

CSN



# WIG Award Amounts

Semester Enrollment Level	WIG Maximum <u>Semester</u> Award Amount	WIG Maximum <u>Annual</u> Award Amount
6 – 8.5 credits	\$1,000	\$2,000
9 – 11.5 credits	\$1,500	\$3,000
12 or more credits	\$2,000	\$4,000

The WIG award is intended to be a part of the student's full financial aid package. By targeting Pell-eligible students, the WIG pilot leverages other need-based aid sources to pay toward registration and fees, books and supplies, and other living expenses.

# WIG Reporting and Accountability

- The NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs will:
  - Submit quarterly and annual reporting of the use of funds as required by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) final rule.
  - Publish a preliminary report at the end of Spring 2023 including the number of students eligible for awarding, the number of students awarded, and the degree programs of the awarded students.
  - Publish a final report at the end of the pilot with key metrics of the WIG program, including number of students eligible to receive WIG awards; number of students receiving WIG awards; number of recipients earning a certificate or degree; and persistence rate of recipients (continuation from fall to spring and/or fall to fall). Data will be disaggregated by race/ethnicity and income level as available.



# Timeline

- March 2022 – Governor’s commitment
- June 2022 – AB 450 endorsement and letter of support
- August 2022 – IFC funding request
- If approved, the pilot would take place:
  - Spring 2023
  - Fall 2023/Spring 2024
  - Fall 2024 (if funds available)

# Questions?

