

# FY27 Support Doubling the Pell Grant

Sending Office: Honorable Seth Magaziner

Sent By: Raisa.Majid@mail.house.gov

## FY27 Support Doubling the Pell Grant

**Deadline: 3/19/26, COB**

### [Quill](#)

Please join Reps. Magaziner and Waters in requesting that the House Appropriations Committee provide robust funding for the Federal Pell Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2027 to double the current maximum individual award to \$14,790. We also ask that appropriators secure the long-term affordability impact of the Pell Grant program for years to come by indexing the maximum award amount to inflation and ensuring that funding for the program is fully mandatory, rather than discretionary. These policy changes will ensure that the financial support the Pell Grant program provides to students as they pursue higher education will be insulated from market changes or budget shortfalls.

Federal investments to boost Pell, combined with increased state support and the commitment of institutions to hold down costs, are working. At public four-year institutions, for example, adjusted for inflation, tuition is down from ten years ago, as is student borrowing. However, as housing, food and other costs for students continue to rise, Congress must take action to maintain the purchasing power of the maximum Pell Grant. Doubling the maximum Pell Grant will cover more of the overall cost of college education, help more students complete college, and help ensure students are not limited solely by their parents' income.

If you would like to sign onto this request, please sign on via Quill here. If you have any questions, please contact Raisa Majid ([raisa.majid@mail.house.gov](mailto:raisa.majid@mail.house.gov)) with Congressman Seth Magaziner's office and Kathleen Sengstock ([kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov](mailto:kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov)) with Congresswoman Maxine Waters' office.

Sincerely,

Seth Magaziner

Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Member of Congress

### Related Legislative Issues

**Selected legislative information:** Appropriations, Education, Government

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on this year's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we ask that you provide robust funding for the Federal Pell Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2027 to double the current maximum individual award to \$14,790. We also ask that appropriators secure the long-term affordability impact of the Pell Grant program for years to come by indexing the maximum award amount to inflation and ensuring that funding for the program is fully mandatory, rather than discretionary. These policy changes will ensure that the financial support the Pell Grant program provides to students as they pursue higher education will be insulated from market changes or budget shortfalls.

While the Committee has made significant strides to increase the maximum grant, the 2025 - 2026 award year still falls short of what is needed to make college affordable to the lowest-income students. Congress must increase the annual Pell Grant to \$14,790. Federal investments to boost Pell, combined with increased state support and the commitment of institutions to hold down costs, are working. At public four-year institutions, for example, adjusted for inflation, tuition is down from ten years ago, as is student borrowing. However, increased expenses like textbooks, housing, food, and transportation have drastically diminished Pell's purchasing power. This places a greater strain on the students and families that the program was designed to help. Increasing the maximum Pell Grant will significantly improve the award's purchasing power, thus ensuring it will truly benefit the students and families that need it most.

For 54 years, Pell Grants have provided much-needed financial assistance to low-income families, unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of students. Because these grants are awarded solely based upon a student's financial need and do not have to be repaid, they are often the main vehicle available to low- and moderate-income students to pay for a college education. Strengthening the program will not only make college more affordable, but it will also improve outcomes by providing grant recipients more opportunities to focus on school, helping them cover their basic needs, and eliminating barriers to completion. Helping low- and moderate-income students obtain a college degree will strengthen our communities, workforces, and nation. This investment will reinforce our national commitment to promoting the opportunity to obtain a college education regardless of family income.

Thank you again for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to working with you on ways to expand access to a quality higher education.

Sincerely,

[[SIGNATURES]]

DRAFT