

ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

Addressing equity challenges in higher education requires a multi-faceted approach, so we break our report into three categories. This document summarizes problems and recommended federal policy solutions for Access & Affordability in higher education as identified in Young Invincibles' report *Race & Ethnicity as a Barrier to Opportunity*. To read the full report, visit: www.younginvincibles.org.

PROBLEM: The institutional quality in which students enroll stratifies on racial and ethnic lines – Generally, college access for communities of color has improved in recent years, but the level, selectivity, and quality of the institutions in which college students enroll, sort along racial and ethnic lines.

Recommendations

- *Protect students from predatory colleges* – Protect & strengthen the Gainful Employment rule.
- *Improve consumer information* – Maintain the College Scorecard and incorporate new measures disaggregated by race & ethnicity.
- *Federal guidance on transfer policy* – Highlight best practices and incentivize improvements to transfer pathways.

PROBLEM: Students of color generally have fewer resources to pay for college & financial aid isn't making up difference – On average, Latinx and African-American students start with fewer resources, and despite spending less on college than white families, college costs take up a larger portion of African American and Latinx families' incomes.

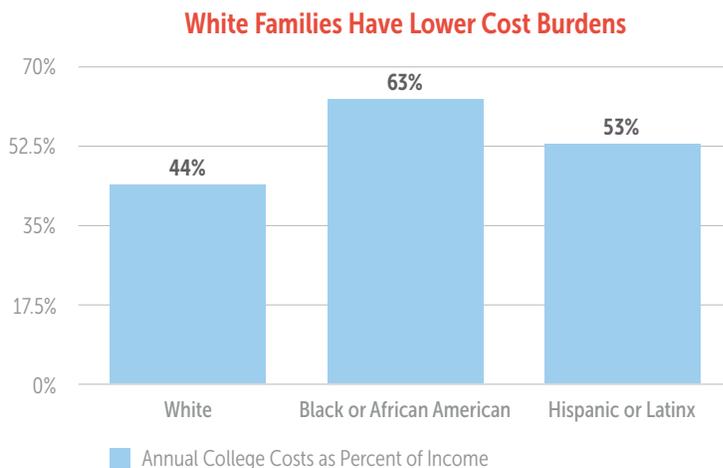
Recommendations

- *Modernize the Pell Grant* – Bolster the Pell Grant so that its buying power reflects the rising cost of tuition, particularly for in-state students at public institutions.
- *Reform Federal Work Study* – Redesign Federal Work Study to reach more students with financial need and diversify job opportunities available to students.
- *Second Chance Pell* – Expand Pell Grants for incarcerated individuals.
- *Explore New Protections for Undocumented Students* – Update education and workforce protections for DACA-eligible and current DACA grantees.

PROBLEM: Too few qualified students apply for aid – Too many students, especially those eligible for Pell grants, leave money on the table by not submitting the FAFSA.

Recommendations

- *Expand FAFSA outreach* – Translate more materials into Spanish and expand outreach to communities of color.
- *Modernize & Simplify the FAFSA* – Remove unnecessary questions from the FAFSA, including reviewing a question about prior drug convictions.



Source: Young Invincibles' analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011-12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).