



Affordability Grants:

Financial help for those who need it most!

Attending college can be costly. Tuition, fees, textbooks, and living expenses all add up, making the price of higher education a barrier for students to attend or finish college.

Northwest College students have access to financial aid options including federal and state grants, loans, and work-study programs that help pay for college. The institution also awards scholarships for academic merit, athletics, and for participation in designated activities or competitive groups.

NWC Foundation is now focused on endowing funds for Affordability Grants as a new category of support dedicated to *helping low-to-moderate income students afford higher education.*

► Demographic Evaluation

Many students in the NWC region are from rural backgrounds and have limited access to higher education opportunities. According to 2025 Census demographics within Northwest College’s three-county service area:

Low-income households = income under \$40,673

Moderate-income households = income from \$40,673-\$65,076

County	Median Household Income*	% in Poverty*	Other Factors
Big Horn	\$60,547	12.0%	Majority underserved rural remote and moderate-income tracts
Park	\$70,533	8.6%	Multiple underserved income and two moderate-income tracts
Washakie	\$62,648	8.6%	Majority underserved rural remote and moderate-income tracts

U.S. Census 2023

PELL grant eligibility is an income measure in higher education. At NWC:

- 45% of degree-seeking students (excluding dual/concurrent, international and auditing) during 2023-24 were found to be PELL eligible. However, since only 66% of these NWC students completed the FAFSA, the number of low-income students is likely higher.
- 28% were classified as first-generation students who also lack knowledge or support systems to help them address the challenges of completing higher education credentials.



► Financial and Other Barriers

Research shows that financial stress impacts academic success, with studies linking higher financial strain to greater student dropouts.

The cost of attendance for Wyoming residents at Northwest College in 2023-24 was \$23,417 (living off campus). Work and/or family obligations also create competing priorities that can impact educational goals. These barriers directly affect educational achievement for students, which in turn influence median incomes and poverty rates.

Eliminating financial stress allows students to address other needs and focus more on their studies without worrying about excessive debt.

**Good for students.
Good for our community.**

NWC's economic value:
Every \$1 invested for a student's education = \$4.50 increase in lifetime wages



► Grant Program Components

Affordability Grants will flow from information captured in NWC's online scholarship application. Specific questions will seek information regarding household income levels and the number of family members in households. A third measure will be a student's accumulated aid following the College's May 1 acceptance date.

The NWC Financial Aid Office will award Affordability Grants to students within the low-income tier first, moving next to the moderate-income level (pending funding), considering the family size and previously awarded financial aid and scholarships. The goal is to help fill the financial gap toward cost of attendance for economically disadvantaged students, making college more affordable and accessible.

You can help us help students accomplish their goals through Affordability Grants!

For more information, contact us:

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