

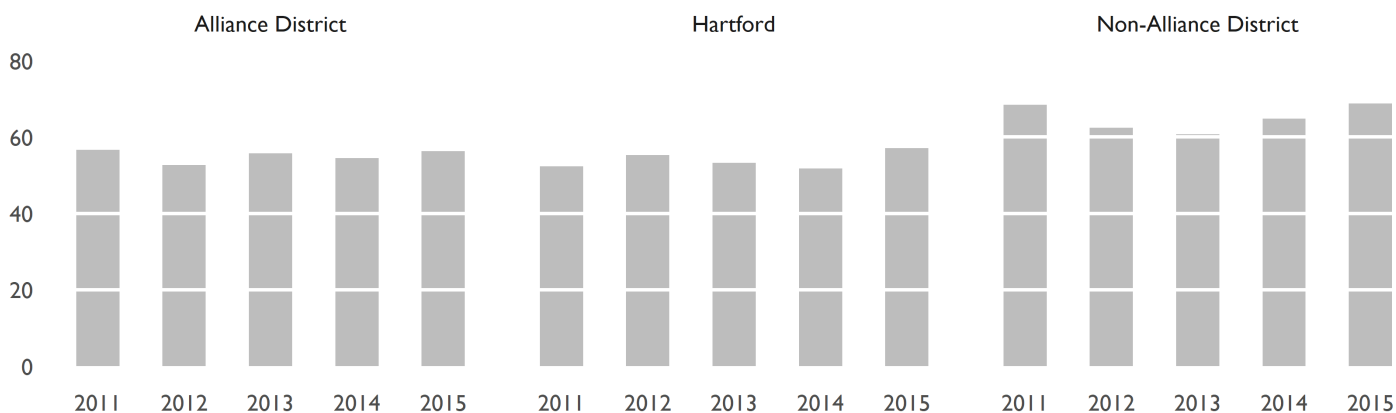
WHY ARE SCHOLARSHIPS IMPORTANT?

Students' receipt of financial aid correlates with increased college enrollment and success. Financial assistance, such as scholarships, can help promote positive academic outcomes.¹

In the last ten years, college tuition and fees have increased (after adjusting for inflation) at private nonprofit four-year institutions (2.4%), public four-year institutions (3.2%), and public two-year institutions (2.8%).² Tuition and fees are increasing at a faster rate than financial aid and household incomes. Research has shown that there negative effects on college enrollment when college prices increase and grant aid decreases and that these enrollment effects are particularly substantial among students from low-income households.³

College entrance for low-income students

Percent of high school graduates receiving free or reduced-price lunch who enrolled in college within one year, Hartford region



WHAT ARE STRATEGIES TO ENSURE COLLEGE ACCESS?

Strategies for ensuring college access fall into three main categories:

- Financial aid resources and planning: Strategies that reduce the financial burden of college attendance (e.g. scholarships, grants, and stipends), demystifying college costs, and navigating financial aid options and application process.
- College awareness and aspiration: Strategies that increase students' understanding of what their higher education options are, desire to attend college, and confidence that they can succeed academically.
- Academic preparation and continued support: Strategies that strengthen students' college eligibility, readiness for college-level coursework, and ability to persist in college.

1. See Avery and Kane (2004); Castleman & Long, 2013; Cornwell, Mustard, and Sridhar (2006); Deming and Dynarski (2009); Dynarski and Scott-Clayton (2013); Goldrick-Rab, Harris, Kelchen, & Benson, 2012; Hurwitz, 2012; and St. John, Andrieu, Oescher, and Starkey (1994).

2. College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges. Trends in College Pricing 2017. Available at <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing>

3. Bowen W, Chingos M, and McPherson M, Crossing the Finish Line (Princeton, 2009). Perna, L. W. Toward a more complete understanding of the role of financial aid in promoting college enrollment: The importance of context. In J. C. Smart (Ed.), Higher education: Handbook of theory and research. New York, NY: Springer Publishing.

HARTFORD FOUNDATION INVESTMENTS

Since 1945, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded \$28 million in scholarships to students in the Greater Hartford region. Scholarships support attendance at four-year colleges, two-year community colleges, and for students transferring from community colleges to four-year institutions.

In addition to scholarships, the Hartford Foundation has made investments in other strategies to promote college access for students in the greater Hartford region. Examples include:

- The **Women Invested in Securing an Education** (WISE) and **Men of Vision and Education Reaching for Success** (MOVE) programs at Goodwin College promote the enrollment and achievement of young men and women from disadvantaged backgrounds through a variety of services including financial assistance, advising, and mentorship.
- **Career Beginnings ‘First Year Bridge’** program at **The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education** helps first-generation students to access, transition to, and persist in college by providing them with “bridge” advisory services the summer after high school and through their first year of college.
- **Hartford Youth Scholars** expanded its High School and College Programs to serve 150 additional high school and college-level scholars. HYS offers SAT preparation, college tours, college readiness workshops, and individualized financial aid, college application guidance, and assistance in accessing campus resources.
- The **YWCA Hartford Region** received Career Pathways Initiative supplemental funds to cover tuition and books for non-credit bearing Math and English courses required at Manchester Community College. The YW Career Women Manchester program is designed to help women with families access education to start a career that leads to greater financial stability.
- **Capital Community College** increased the number of Spanish-dominant, Latino students enrolled in its Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and/or an associate degree programs. Retention efforts focused on increasing language proficiency of these students in order to facilitate their transition into college level English and early childhood courses.
- The Hartford Foundation is represented on the steering committee of the **Connecticut College and Career Readiness Alliance**. The Alliance is a cross-sector group convened to advance public policies that support the goal of increasing the amount of CT students who are college and career ready to 80 percent by 2030.
- The Hartford Foundation acts as fiscal agent for **Hartford Promise**, an integrated model that provides Hartford Public Schools students with financial resources, support services, and key relationships that help them to overcome barriers to college access and college success. The Hartford Foundation has also provided grant dollars to support a portion of the Hartford Promise scholarship fund.