

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

*Providing sustainable solutions for college, career,
and technical training*

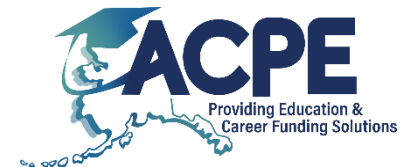
Lunch & Learn
April 7, 2026

Kerry Thomas, Executive Director

Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications & Outreach



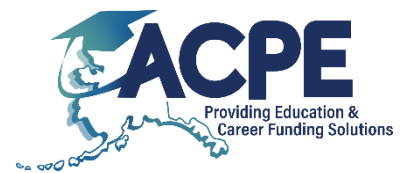
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About ACPE



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About ACPE

■ Mission

- *Provide sustainable solutions for college, career and technical training*

■ Vision

- *Alaskans are educated and skilled contributors to our vibrant communities and economy*

Strategic Priorities

Become the education lender of choice in Alaska and for Alaskans

Increase access to, and utilization of, federal and state education funding sources

Operate a sustainable organization responsive to students, customers, stakeholders, and employees

Position ACPE to help bridge the education gap in Alaska's current and future workforce needs



About ACPE & ASLC

Relationship Between ASLC & ACPE

Alaska Student Loan Corporation

AS 14.42.100-14.42.990

- General loan program funding by issuing asset-backed debt.
- Authorize and oversee investments, trusts, and indentures.
- Set investment policies, loan terms, fees, interest rates, and program benefits.

FUNDING THROUGH INTER-AGENCY RECEIPTS



SERVICING OF ASLC LOAN PORTFOLIO

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

AS 14.42.101-14.42.005

- Advisory body to the Governor, Legislature, and Institutional governing bodies, relative to planning for higher education in the state.
- Administer financial aid programs and interstate compacts.
- Education Consumer Protection through administration of state institutional authorization under AS 14.48.
- Serve as state agency required by federal Higher Education Act.



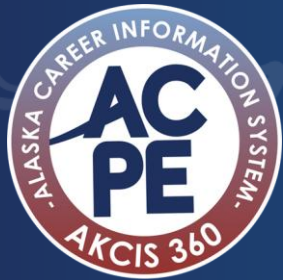
Education Planning Solutions

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ACPE/ASLC's resources serve an overarching purpose in gathering information on postsecondary education financial resources available to Alaskans and disseminating this information to reasonably assure that qualified residents are aware of those financial resources. ([see Statutes & Regulations](#))



ACPE Outreach Resources



AKCIS 360 is a comprehensive Personal Learning & Career Plan (PLCP) resource for discovering national and Alaska-specific education and career opportunities.



ACAC fosters partnerships with education stakeholders to improve the lives of Alaskans through access to postsecondary education and career training opportunities.



AFCI supports education and workforce development professionals to increase FAFSA completion rates in Alaska through partnerships and statewide collaboration.



The Success Center offers education, career training, and financial aid guidance. Connect in person or virtually for assistance and reach your college & career training goals.



Institutional Authorization serves as the educational consumer protection authority for Alaska's postsecondary students, institutions, and training providers.

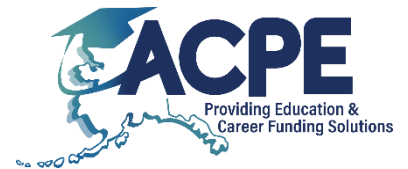


Outreach Resources

- ACPE's Outreach planning resources provide information, financial literacy, and opportunities to prepare for postsecondary education
 - **Plan & Prepare:** AKCIS provides an online platform to explore and create their Personal Learning & Career Plans
 - **Financial Literacy & Support:** Success Center delivers 1:1 and group presentations and support about financial aid, scholarship applications, and funding opportunities
 - **Train-the-Trainer:** ACAC offers Alaska's education stakeholders training and resources to provide local postsecondary financial literacy support to students and families in their communities
 - **FAFSA Completion:** AFCl provides Alaskans a variety of resources and services to promote and increase FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion in Alaska



Education Funding Solutions



Education Funding Solutions

- **ACPE administers Alaska's financial aid programs including:**
 - Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)
 - Alaska Education Grant (AEG)
 - Alaska Education Loans (Supplemental, Family, Refinance)
 - Specialty Loans including WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) and Winn Brindle
- **Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF)**
 - Established in Statute (AS 37.14.740), the HEIF is a separate fund for the purpose of making grant and scholarship payments
 - Programs funded through HEIF:
 - APS, AEG, WWAMI



APS & AEG



Alaska Performance Scholarship

- **Merit-Based Scholarship**
 - Up to \$28,000 across eight full-time semesters (within eight years of graduation)
 - Complete rigorous high school curriculum and
 - Earn qualifying Grade Point Average (GPA) or minimum score on ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys
- Application is the FAFSA, which must include an Alaska institution (Title IV). APS Alternative Application available for non-Title IV institutions



Alaska Education Grant

- **Need-Based Grant**
 - FAFSA required
 - AK Resident, minimum of half-time enrollment in college or career training program
 - Eligible recipients awarded by highest need and date of FAFSA until funds are exhausted
 - \$500 - \$4,000 per academic year

Listed as whole dollar amount



APS & AEG Funding

- **The funding allocation for APS & AEG from the HEIF is calculated as:**
 - 7% of the HEIF balance as of June 30 each year for the following fiscal year
 - 2/3 of 7% available for APS funding
 - 1/3 of 7% available for AEG funding
 - WWAMI is directly appropriated from the HEIF and is not subject to a funding calculation

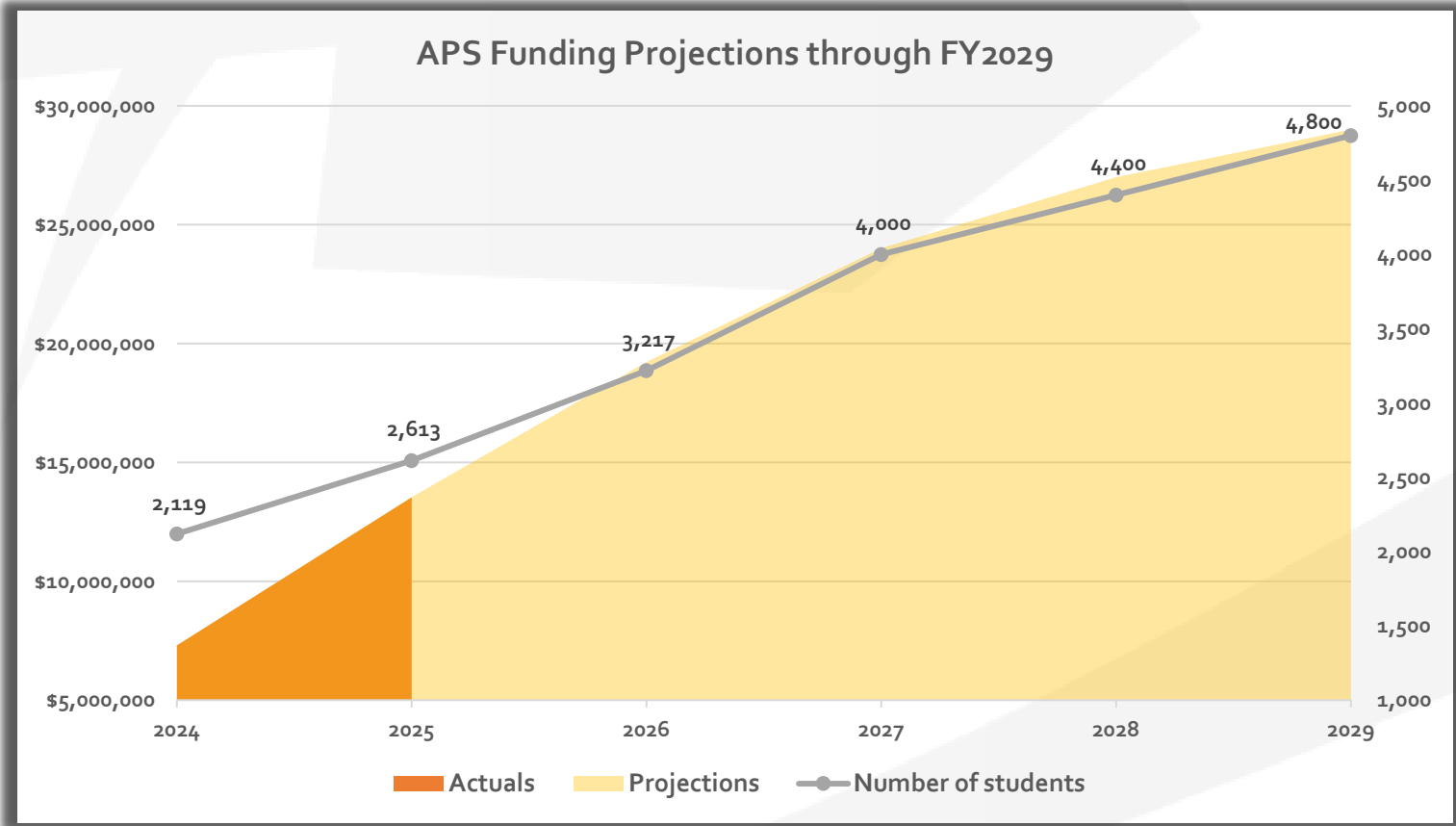


APS & AEG Funding

- **ACPE's FY2027 budget request for APS & AEG is equal to 100% of the funding available from the HEIF**
 - The amount of HEIF available for AEG is proportional to the amount available for APS, as the seven percent from the HEIF is split 2/3 to 1/3 for APS and AEG, respectively
- **Any changes to APS funding levels directly impact the AEG funding amount**



APS Funding Projections



ACPE's Education Loans



- **ACPE offers three primary education loan solutions**
 - Supplemental (Student); Family; Refinance (REFI)
 - Goal is to bridge the remaining education financial need
 - Safeguards from overborrowing
 - Savings & protections for students
- **Students *save* with ACPE**
 - Students save \$12,700 - \$55,000+ in interest by borrowing from ACPE instead of other private, for-profit lenders
 - ***ACPE's Supplemental and Family programs offer lower interest rates than Federal PLUS loans***



ACPE's Education Loans



- **General Qualifications for Education Loans**
 - Alaska resident or attend Alaska institution
 - Minimum FICO credit score and absence of adverse credit (for student or co-signer)
 - Minimum of half-time enrollment (certified by institution)
- **Student and Family Loan Limits and Terms**
 - Up to \$24,000 per year (max aggregate \$96,000)
 - Fixed interest rate (acpe.alaska.gov/myrate)
 - No fees – ever!

Listed as whole dollar amount



ACPE's Education Loans



■ Refinance Education Loan

- Alaska resident (primary borrower only) **OR**
 - Previous borrower, cosigner or beneficiary of ACPE education loan
 - Graduate of a high school or postsecondary institution physically in Alaska
- At least \$7,500 in qualifying education loan(s), not to exceed \$250,000
- Minimum FICO credit score of 680+
- Debt-to-Income (DTI) ratio of 45% or less if refinancing over \$125,000 (or cosigner who meets these requirements)

Listed as whole dollar amount



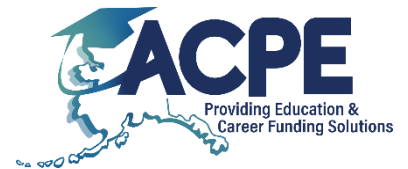
Specialty Loan Programs



- **Winn Brindle Loan**
 - Funding for education expenses for students enrolled full-time in fisheries related programs, forgiveness benefit available
- **WWAMI Medical Education Program**
 - Funding for up to 30 Alaska students in the University of Washington School of Medicine multi-state medical program, forgiveness benefit available
- **WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)**
 - Assists Alaskan students pursuing a degree in an approved health-related education program not available in Alaska

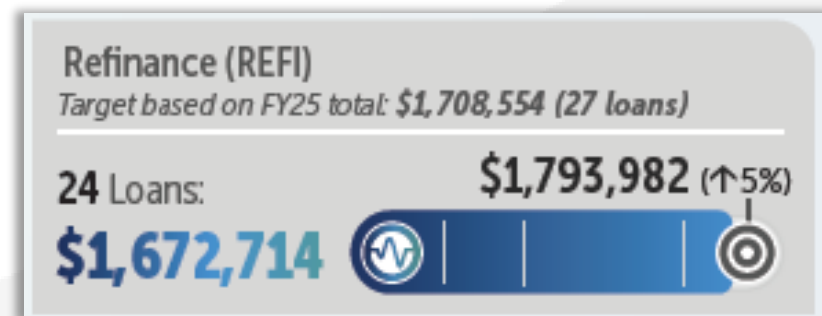
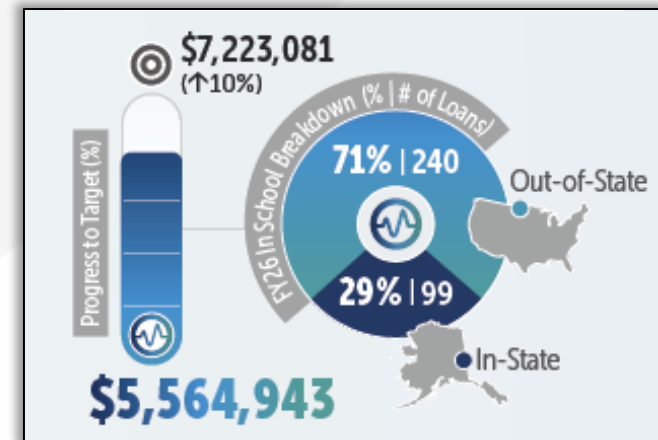


ACPE Outcomes



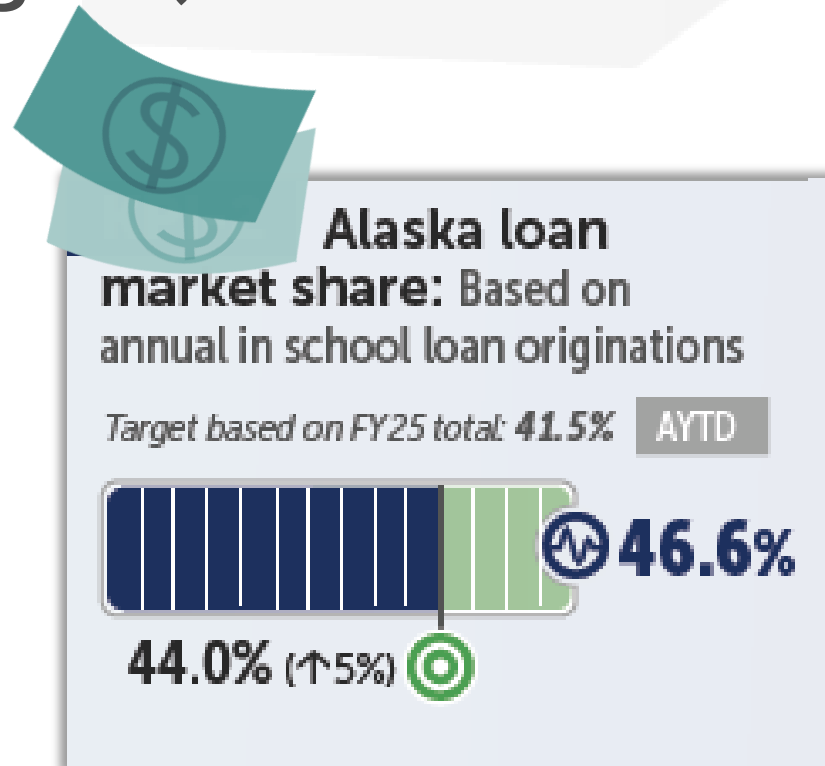
Education Loan Outcomes

- Strong progress to meeting loan volume goal (Supplemental & Family Loans)
- Exceeded loan volume goal (REFI)



Education Loan Outcomes

- Met and exceeded FY2026 Loan market share goal (in-school education loans)



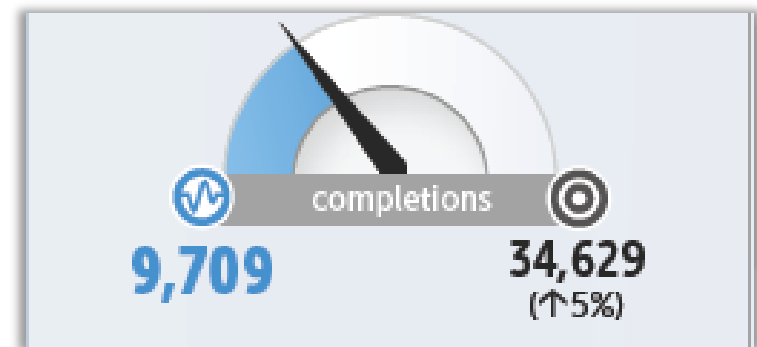
FAFSA Outcomes

- Exceeded FAFSA Completion goal in FY2025, on track to exceed FY2026 goal

FY2025 FAFSA Completion



FY2026 FAFSA Completion



(as of 12/31/2025)



APS Outcomes

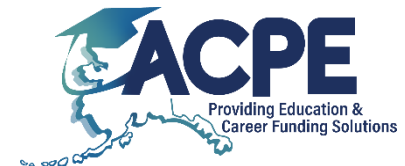
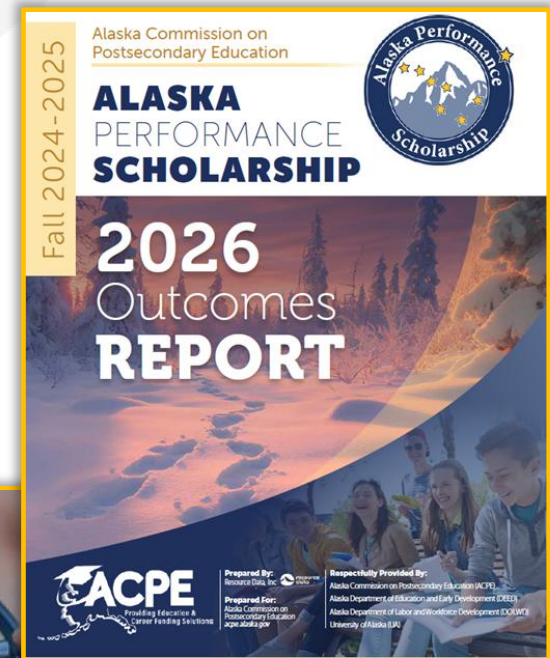
- ACPE publishes the APS Outcomes Report to provide relevant data points related to the goals of the APS program, including:
 - Students perform well in high school
 - Students are prepared for college/career training
 - Students perform well in college/career training
 - High-achieving students stay in Alaska



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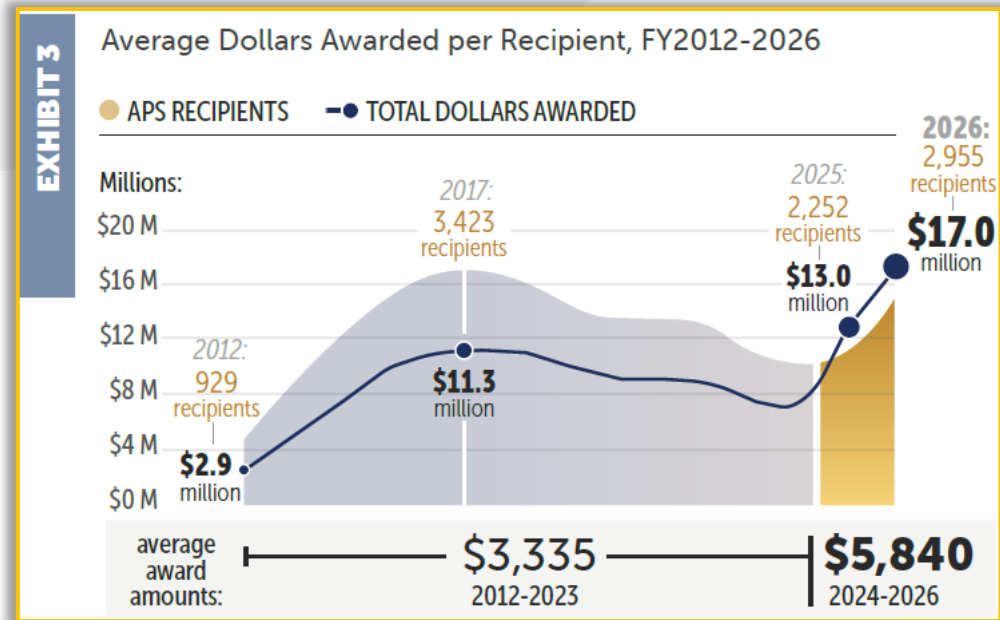


APS Outcomes

EXHIBIT 2 APS Total Dollars Awarded & Recipients, FY2012-2026

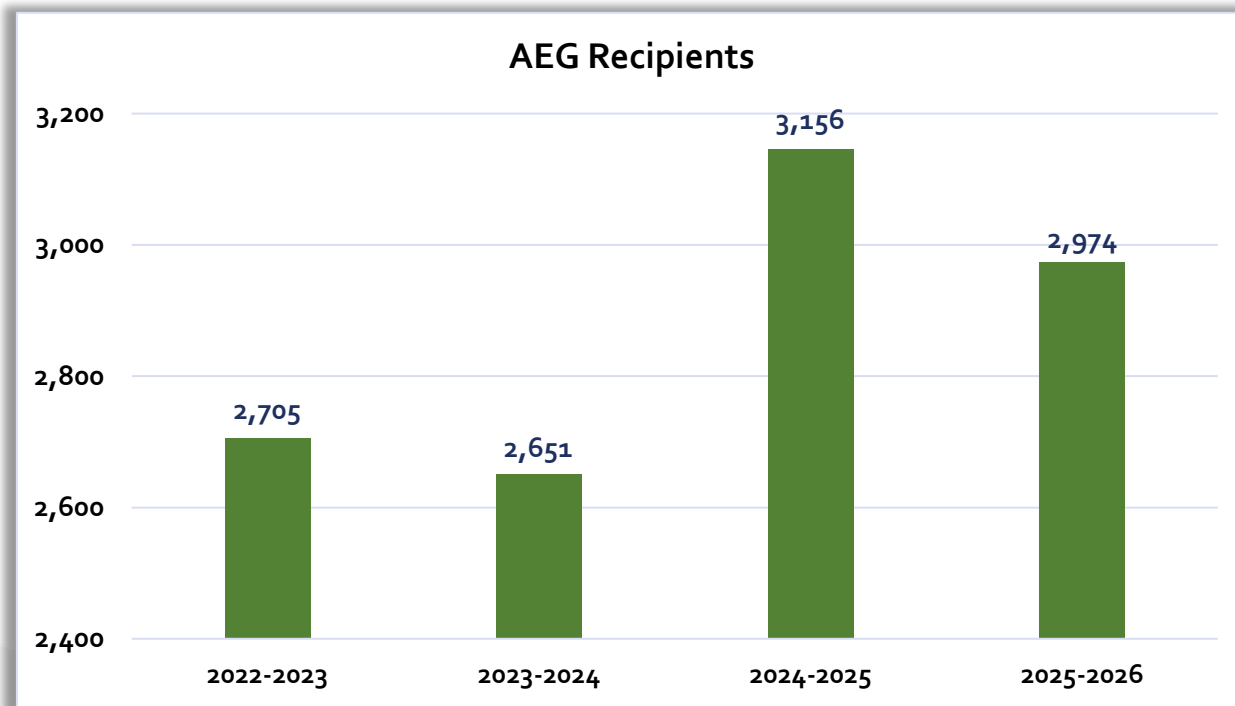
AWARD YEAR (AY)	TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED	RECIPIENTS (EACH AY)
2012	\$2,982,448	929
2013	\$5,653,223	1,717
2014	\$7,823,335	2,330
2015	\$10,046,898	2,976
2016	\$11,055,641	3,358
2017	\$11,285,711	3,423
2018	\$11,079,588	3,358
2019	\$10,156,663	3,089
2020	\$9,371,849	2,835
2021	\$9,334,253	2,798
2022	\$9,194,559	2,689
2023	\$7,822,721	2,281
2024	\$7,299,882	2,119
2025	\$13,018,746	2,252
2026*	\$17,014,000	2,955
TOTAL:	\$143,139,517	<i>n/a</i>

*2026 award and recipient totals are projections based on Fall award amounts (as of Oct 2025).



AEG Outcomes

- AEG recipients below are awarded based on meeting financial need and priority awarding criteria
 - 2024-2025 increase in recipients was due to proportional APS funding increase in 2024-2025 over 2023-2024
 - 2025-2026 recipients reflect year-to-date information as of January 2026. By June 30, 2026, the number of AEG recipients will exceed the prior year count



Please share ACPE's education and funding solutions with your constituents and in your communities.

Thank you!

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