

Scholarship America Public Policy Agenda

By 2025, America will require 11 million more postsecondary credentials than the U.S. is currently on track to produce. This demand will only be met by focusing policy and programmatic efforts on getting more low-to-moderate income students to and through the postsecondary education pipeline. A college credential can provide a ticket out of poverty for individuals, and can also increase the supply of skilled workers, innovators, leaders and engaged citizens. By empowering more students and families to achieve their postsecondary education dreams, we ensure individual prosperity and a stronger, more vibrant nation.

Strong and robust federal and state support for postsecondary education and equitable access are a critical foundation for postsecondary institutions, businesses, community groups and individuals to coalesce in support of students and the nation's future. With nearly 60 years of experience in providing and shaping educational supports to students, as the voice of the private sector in postsecondary education, **Scholarship America is well-positioned to leverage the private sector — its resources, expertise and influence — to partner with federal and state governments, colleges and universities, and others in meeting these challenges.**

To meet the needs of students and the nation, Scholarship America's public policy agenda is the following:

PRIORITY 1: Expand public-private partnerships

- Look to the private sector for experimentation, innovation and best practices
- Support community-based scholarship programs in communities of greatest need
- Encourage private sector participation in federal innovation programs
- Develop and train the future workforce through partnerships
- Preserve and strengthen incentives for private investment in postsecondary education

PRIORITY 2: Ensure a robust financial aid system that works for students

- Increase access to federal financial aid
- Strengthen the Pell Grant program
- Address loan repayment on the front-end
- Harmonize government and institutional financial aid with private scholarships

PRIORITY 3: Require institutional transparency, minimum standards and outcomes

- Publicly share data about student access, success and college costs
- Ensure minimum standards and outcomes