



70% of Texas Jobs Will Require Credentials by 2036 — Pell Makes Them Possible

With 70% of Texas jobs expected to require postsecondary credentials by 2036, access to higher education is more essential than ever. The Pell Grant is one of the most effective, targeted federal investments to help students afford, persist in, and complete college—supporting **more than 492,000 Texans**, roughly one-third of all college students in the state.

WHAT CONGRESS SHOULD DO

- Fully close the Pell Grant funding shortfall to protect current students
- Increase the maximum award to keep pace with inflation
- Ensure long-term stability to prevent future shortfalls

WHY IT MATTERS

- The Pell Grant faces a multi-billion-dollar shortfall that threatens current benefits.
- The maximum award covers just 26% of college costs today—down sharply over time.
- Need-based state grants in Texas reach only 68% of eligible students.

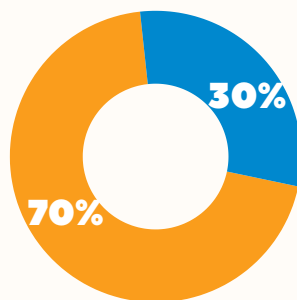
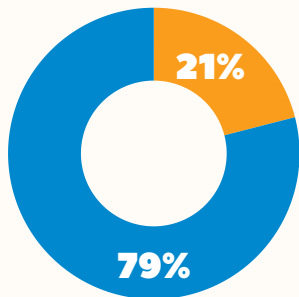
WITHOUT ACTION FROM CONGRESS

- Students will delay or forgo college
- More students will work excessive hours or borrow more
- Fewer students will complete degrees or credentials
- Students will struggle balance attending school and meeting their basic needs

ADDRESSING COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY GAP

Historic High (AY 1975-76)

Recent High (AY 2025-26)



■ Value of Max Pell Grant Compared to Tuition, Fees, Room and Board at Public B.A.- Granting Institution

■ Remaining Tuition, Fees, Room & Board

BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

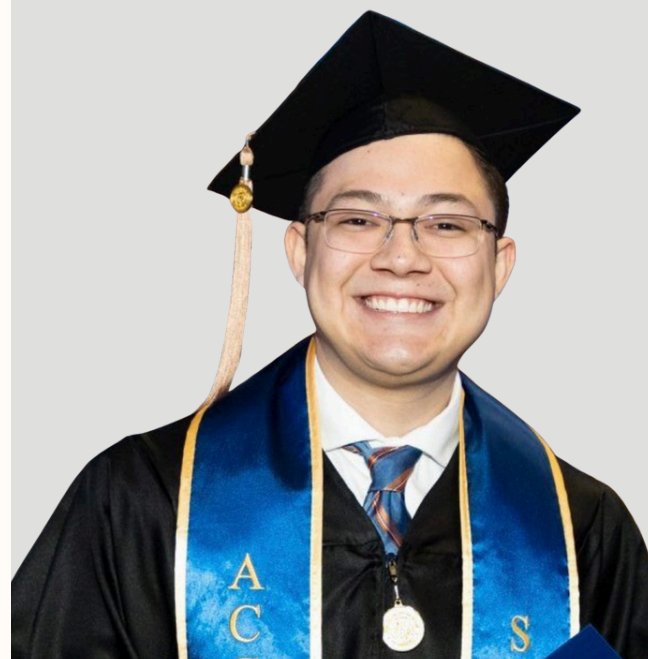
Breakthrough Central Texas is the leading college access and success nonprofit in the region. For nearly 25 years, we have partnered with thousands of middle and high school students who aspire to be the first in their family to graduate with a degree or certificate.

Breakthrough CTX Students & Pell

- **4 out of 5** enrolled students receive Pell Grants
- **Nearly two-thirds** of Breakthrough Pell recipients qualify for the **full** Pell Grant.

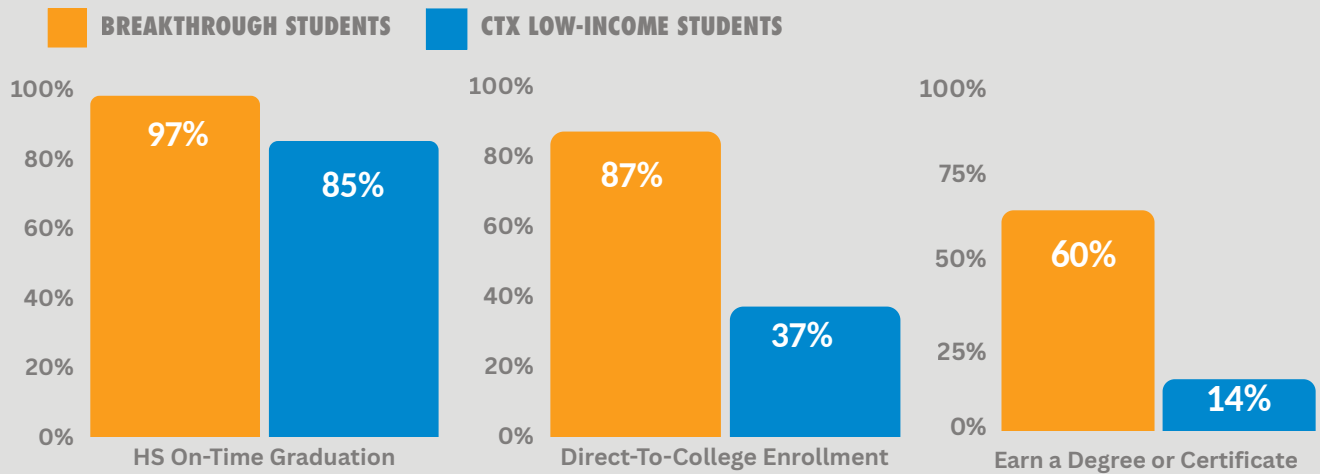
A recent Breakthrough CTX survey found ...

- **58%** of students worry about affording college
- **1 in 3 could not** cover a \$500 emergency
- **28%** experience **food insecurity**
- **38%** experience **housing insecurity**



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BREAKTHROUGH CTX STUDENT OUTCOMES



PELL IS THE FOUNDATION OF ACCESS—NOT SUPPLEMENTAL AID.



I wouldn't be able to pursue higher education if it wasn't for my Pell Grant... Without it, I wouldn't attend college.

PELL ENABLES PERSISTENCE AND ON-TIME COMPLETION.



The Pell Grant has helped me become a full-time student... It's reduced financial stress and made it possible for me to stay enrolled."

CUTS MEAN MORE DEBT, PART-TIME ENROLLMENT, AND LOWER COMPLETION.



If Pell were reduced, I would have to take out loans or only take a few classes at a time

PELL STABILIZES STUDENTS' BASIC NEEDS SO THEY CAN SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY.



The Pell Grant doesn't just help with tuition—it helps me pay for housing, food, and transportation. Without it, I wouldn't be able to focus on school.

