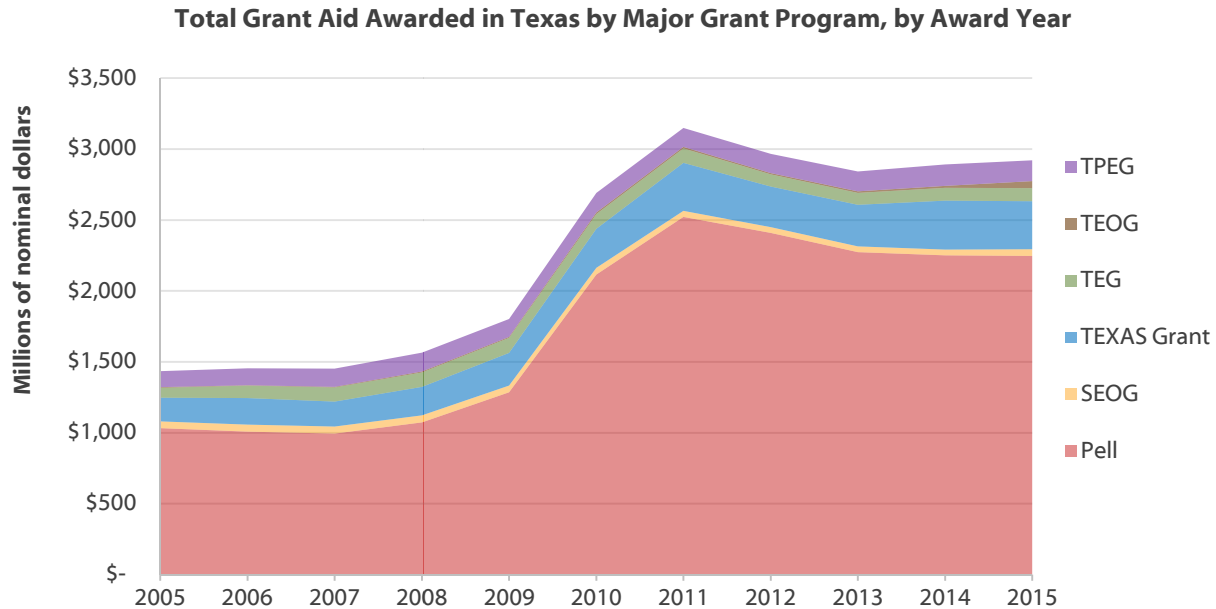


State Grant Aid Grows; Still Dwarfed by Pell



While the federal Pell Grant Program remains by far the largest source of grant aid in Texas, the total amount disbursed to Texas students has decreased steadily over the past five years. In the 2014–2015 award year (AY), about 625,000 students received approximately \$2.25 billion in Pell grants. This was a decrease of about \$276 million, or 11 percent, from AY 2010-2011.

Overall, state grant aid decreased slightly in AY 2014-2015 compared to the prior year. The Towards EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant is by far the largest of the state grant programs, disbursing over \$339 million in AY 2014-2015. TEXAS Grants are available to students who meet a variety of financial and academic criteria, with priority consideration given to students who meet additional academic criteria and a priority filing deadline. As of Fall 2014, initial TEXAS Grants are awarded exclusively to baccalaureate students, although students in other academic programs may be eligible if they received the grant previously.

In AY 2014-2015, the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) – which serves financially needy students at public two-year colleges – saw a large increase in total disbursements over the prior year. The TEOG disbursement increased by \$37.5 million, or 73 percent, from AY 2013-2014.

The Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG), which is available to financially needy students at private, non-profit institutions, increased slightly by \$1.1 million (1.2 percent) in AY 2014-2015. The Texas Public Educational Opportunity Grant (TPEG), which public colleges and universities award to financially needy students out of tuition set asides, decreased slightly by \$4.7 million (3.1%).

Sources: Pell and SEOG: U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Data Center (<http://studentaid.ed.gov/data-center>); TX programs: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Report on Student Financial Aid for Texas Higher Education for Fiscal Years 2005 to 2015 (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports>); College for All Texans (<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com>)

