

# College Cost Central

## The Federal Investment in Higher Education

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According to the U.S. Department of Education, the federal government is investing roughly \$90 billion in higher education *this year alone* – and more than two thirds of that money, about \$65 billion, is going *directly to students* through grants, loans, and other federal student aid programs.

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**The cornerstone of need-based federal financial aid is the Pell Grant, funding of up to \$4,050 per year given to needy students and families. The Pell Grant, which does not need to be repaid, is helping nearly 5 million students achieve the dream of a college education this year alone.**

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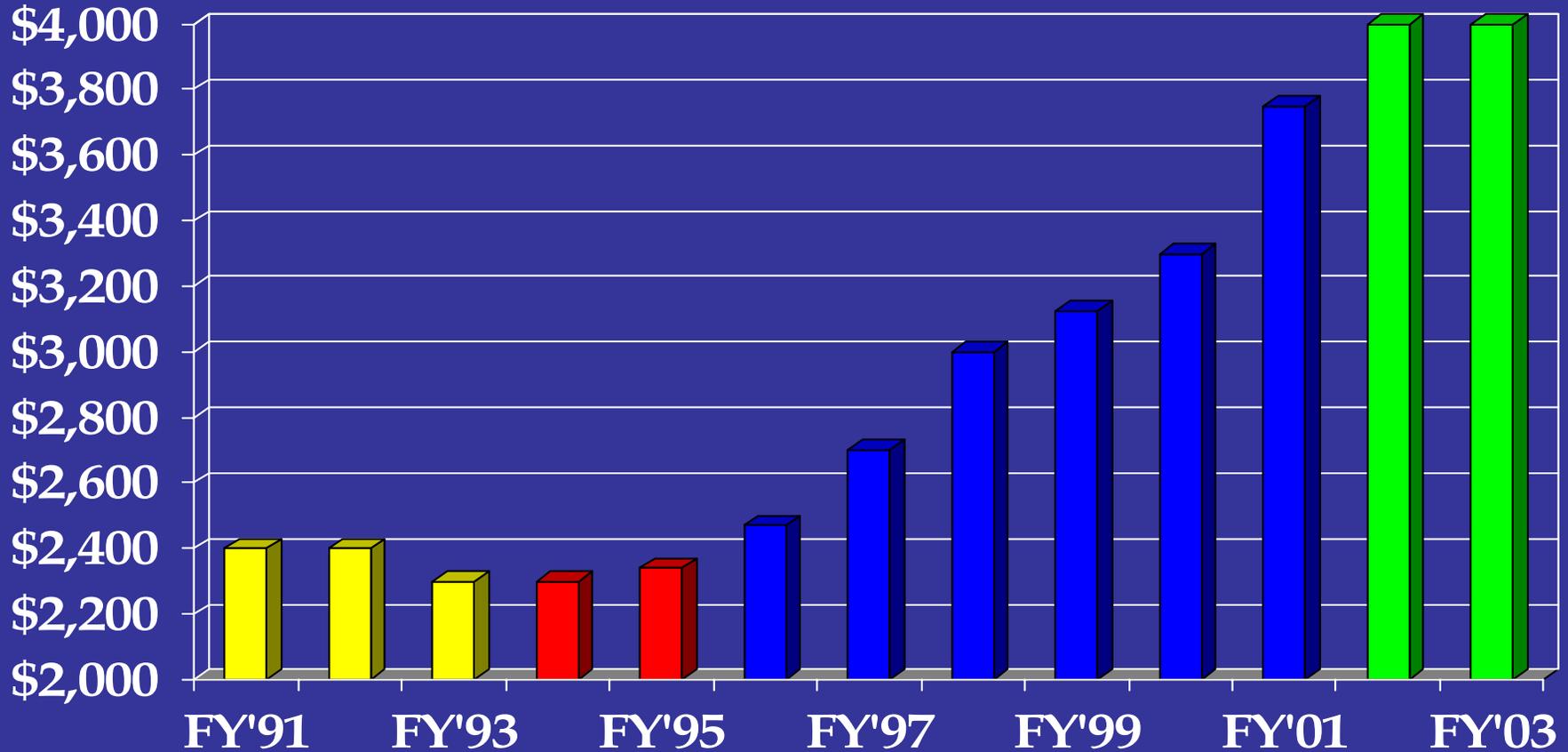
Funding for Pell Grants has increased dramatically under eight years of a Republican-controlled Congress.

Since 1995, the maximum Pell Grant has increased by 73% (from \$2,340 to \$4,050) and overall Pell Grant funding has increased by 87% (from \$6.1 billion to \$11.4 billion).

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### PELL GRANT MAXIMUM AWARD OVER TIME



Yellow: Republican President/Democrat Congress

Red: Democrat President/Democrat Congress

Blue: Democrat President/Republican Congress

Green: Republican President/Republican Congress