

Presentation to House Committee
on Colleges and Universities
Bright Futures Workshop
February 20, 2001



Need-Based Aid

- The Commission has consistently recommended that the primary purpose of student aid is to assist students with financial need.
- F.S. 240.437 (2(a)) It shall be the policy that “state student financial aid be provided primarily on the basis of financial need.”

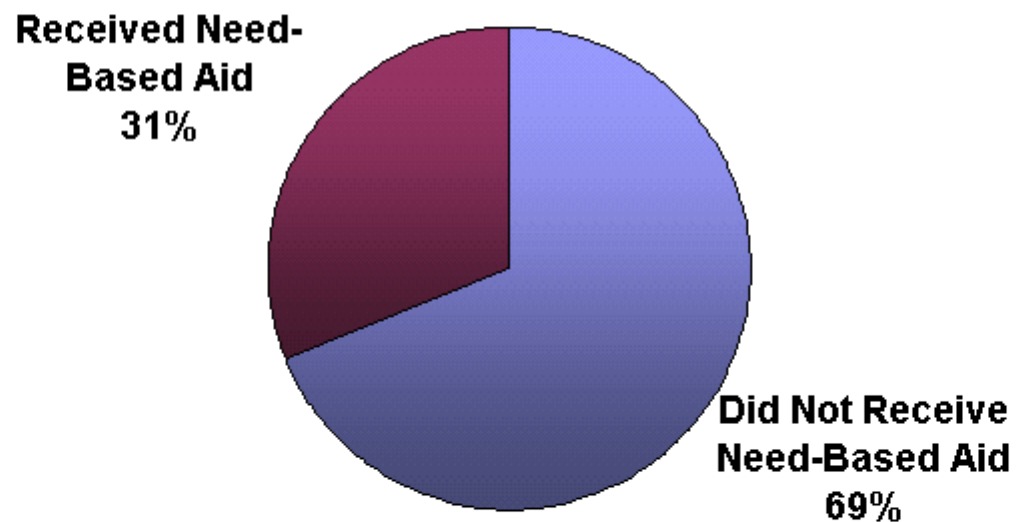
Proportion of Need/Non-Need Aid

- The Commission's most recent analysis found that almost 27 percent of state authorized student aid is now need-based.
- In recent years, the proportion of state aid dedicated to need/non-need has gotten increasingly out of balance.

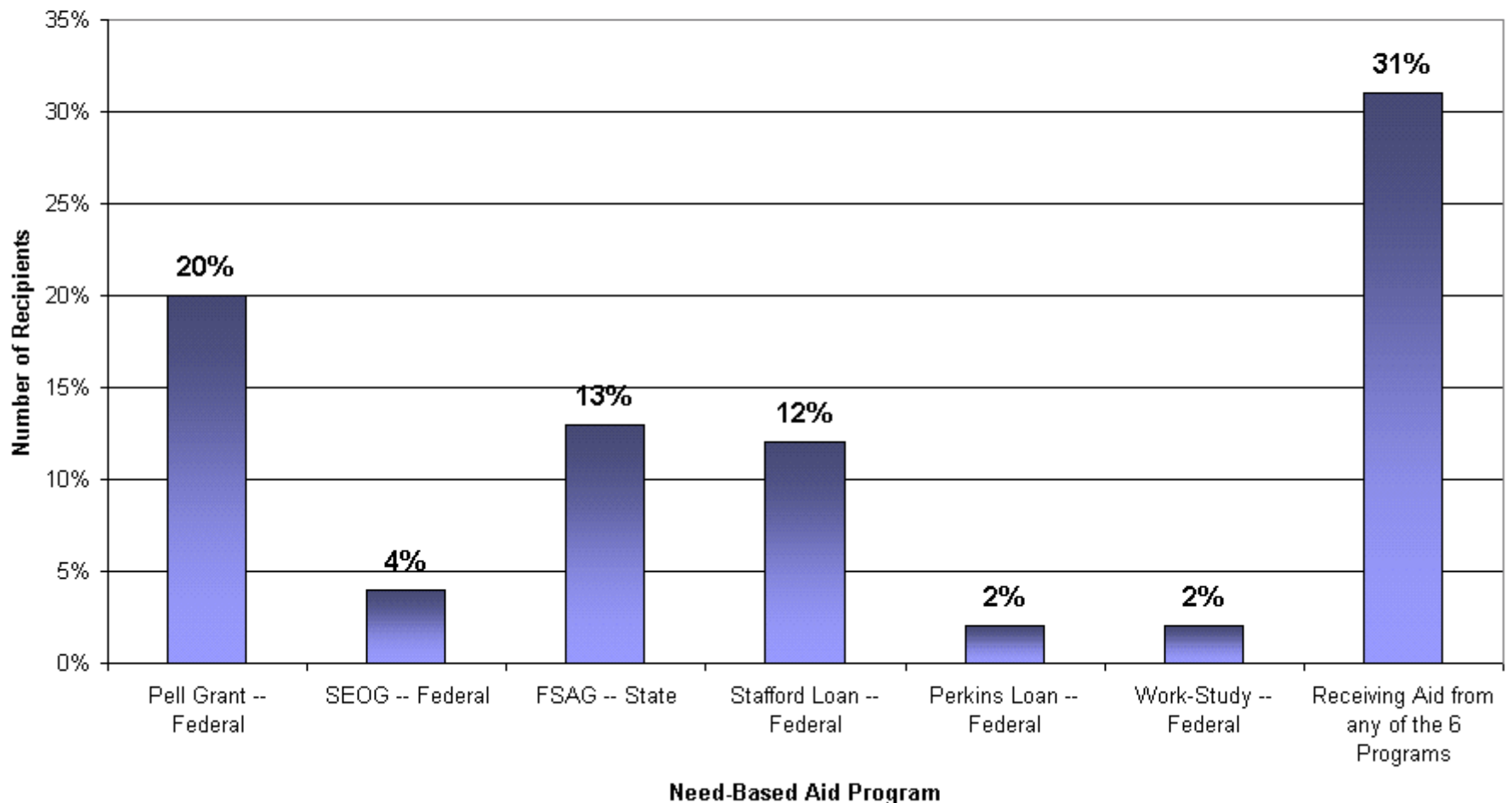
Bright Futures Scholarship Program

- The Bright Futures Scholarship program was examined by the Commission in December 1999.
- In a January 2001 study, the Commission found that the relationship between merit based aid and student continuation from high school to college is not strong.

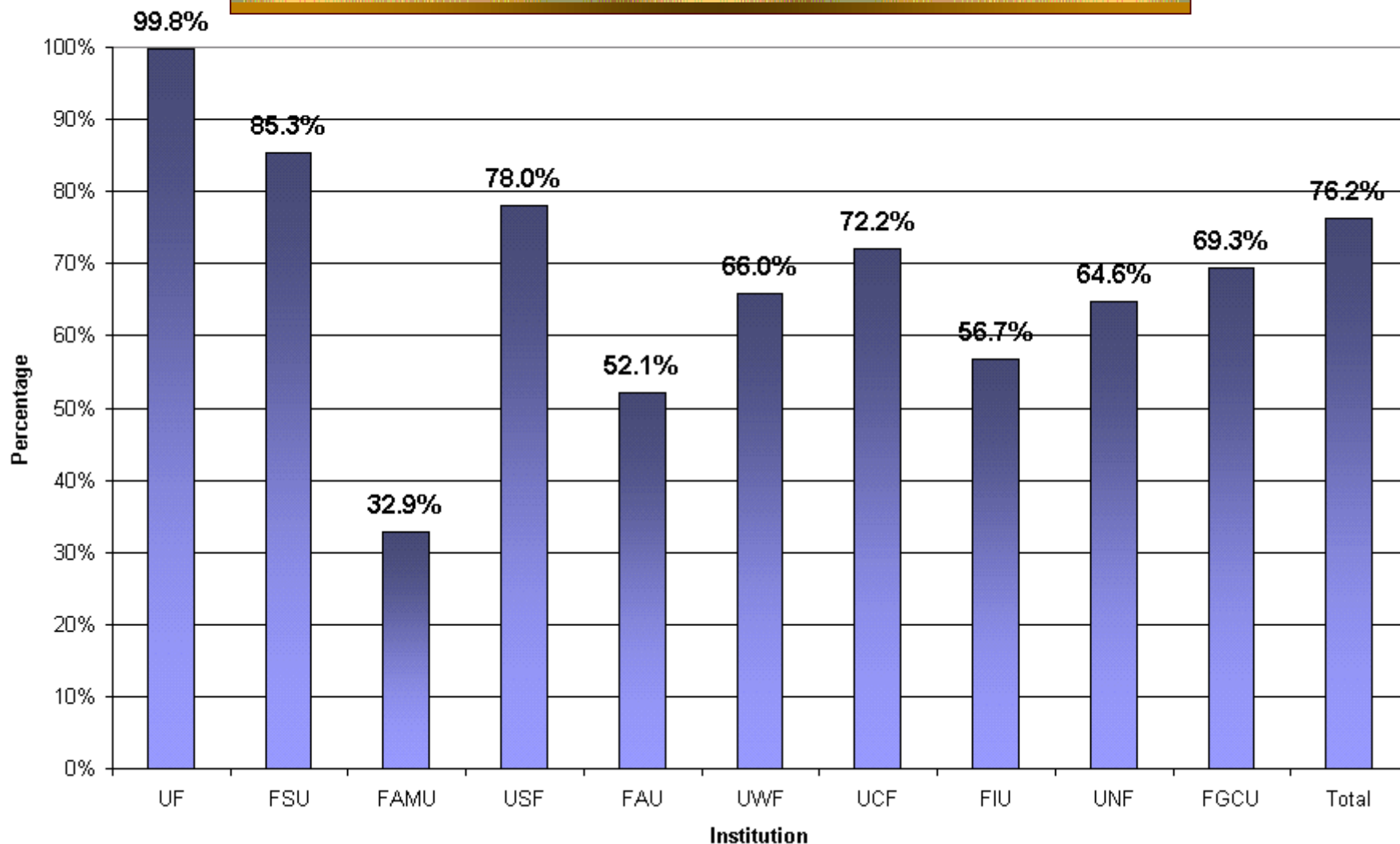
Bright Futures Initial Recipients in the Community College and State University Systems Who Also Received a Need-Based Award in Fall 1998



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Eligible Freshmen on Bright Futures in the State University System, Fall 1999



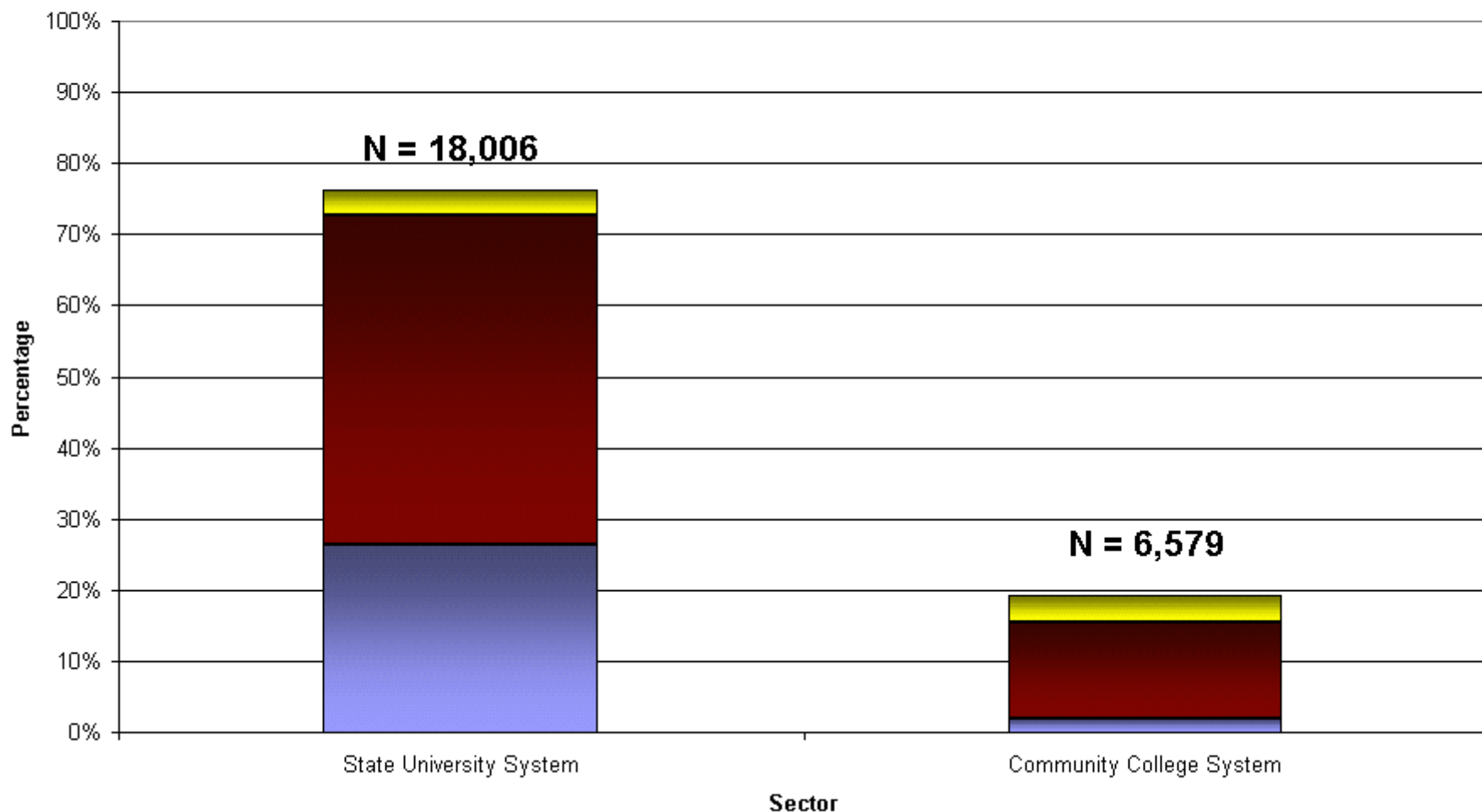
Eligible Freshman on Bright Futures in the State University System and Community College System, by Bright Futures Award Type

Fall 1999

Florida Academic Scholars

Florida Merit Scholars

Gold Seal Vocational



PEPC Bright Futures Recommendations

- Bright Futures Scholarship award amounts, which are currently linked to tuition and fees, should be based on specific statewide amounts established in law and subject to Legislative appropriations.
- The Gold Seal Vocational award should be renamed the “Two-Plus-Two” award and limited to students enrolled in programs of two years or less at a community college or vocational-technical institution.

PEPC Bright Futures Recommendations (cont.)

- The high school GPA required for initial eligibility for the Bright Futures Merit Scholars should be increased from 3.0 to 3.25.