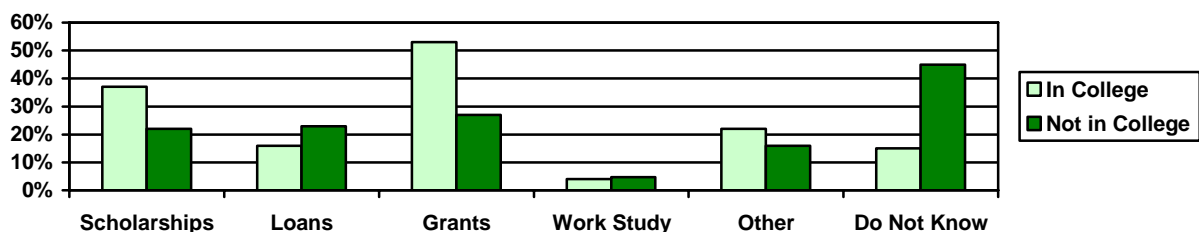


“Perceptions of Financial Aid among California Latino Youth”

Key Findings

- Three out of four Latino young adults who did not attend college cited lack of financial aid as a factor in their decision not to attend.
- Less than 20 percent of Latino young adults have an accurate perception of attendance costs at the University of California or California State University systems.
- Just over half (55 percent) of Latino young adults who did not attend college had heard of the CAL Grant compared with 85 percent of those who had attended college.
- Less than half (49 percent) of Latino young adults who did not attend college had heard of the Pell Grant compared with 80 percent of those who had attended college.
- Only 41 percent of all respondents said that they knew the eligibility requirements to apply for either a Pell Grant or a CAL Grant. Only 40 percent of students who attended college actually applied for a CAL Grant.
- More than half of all survey respondents incorrectly believed that a student must be a U.S. citizen in order to apply for college financial aid.
 - 1 in 4 respondents believes parents need to be U.S. citizens in order for students to apply for college financial aid.
- Respondents who had attended college were far more likely to name grants and scholarships as sources of financial aid than respondents who had not attended college. More than 40 percent of respondents who had not gone to college stated that they did not know of any sources of financial aid compared to just over 10 percent of those who had attended college (see graph):

Sources of financial aid mentioned by the students



- Most respondents over-estimated the costs of attending California State University and University of California campuses.
- Almost all (98 percent) of respondents reported that a college education is an important element of success in today’s world.

Survey Methodology

A 15-minute survey was administered to 400, 18-24 year-old Latino youth in California. Eighty-three percent of the respondents were U.S. born. Seventy-two percent of the respondents had at least one foreign-born parent. The median household pre-tax income was between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents had completed high school. Significantly more female respondents reported being enrolled or once enrolled in college (63%) than males (37%). For analysis, the sample was weighted to reflect an even distribution of males and females and actual proportions (75%) of respondents who had never attended college. The margin of error is +/-5%

In general, respondents currently or formerly enrolled in college reported household incomes in the higher income brackets (over \$35,000) and their parents were more likely to own a home (70%).

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Founded in 1985, the **Tomás Rivera Policy Institute** advances critical, insightful thinking on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective, policy-relevant research, and its implications, for the betterment of the nation.