

## Undergraduates receive grants

More than 175,000 undergraduate students will receive scholarships averaging \$500 for the 1976-77 academic year through the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) Program, HEW's Office of Education announced recently.

The student awards were made possible by almost \$44 million in federal grants to 55 states and territories. The states must match the grants dollar for dollar out of their own resources.

With the exception of Guam, all eligible states and territories will participate next year in what has become a nationwide network of state scholarship programs. Only 27 states had similar student financial assistance programs before the SSIG legislation was passed.

The maximum that may be awarded to a full-time student is \$1,500 per academic year. Only one-half of the scholarship may

be supported with federal funds.

Each state has specified a single agency to manage its scholarship program. While the agencies may establish their own requirements for student and institutional eligibility, they must submit annually a definition of "substantial financial need" that is used to determine student eligibility. Since there is no automatic funding renewals, applications must be submitted annually.

The size of the grant available to a state is based on the number of students enrolled in its post-secondary education institutions. Allotments earmarked for a state which cannot provide matching funds or does not participate in SSIG for other reasons, will be reallocated to other qualified states.

The program is authorized by the 1972 amendments of the Higher Education Act of 1965.