

# RURAL COLLEGE STUDENTS: FAMILY AND FINANCES

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

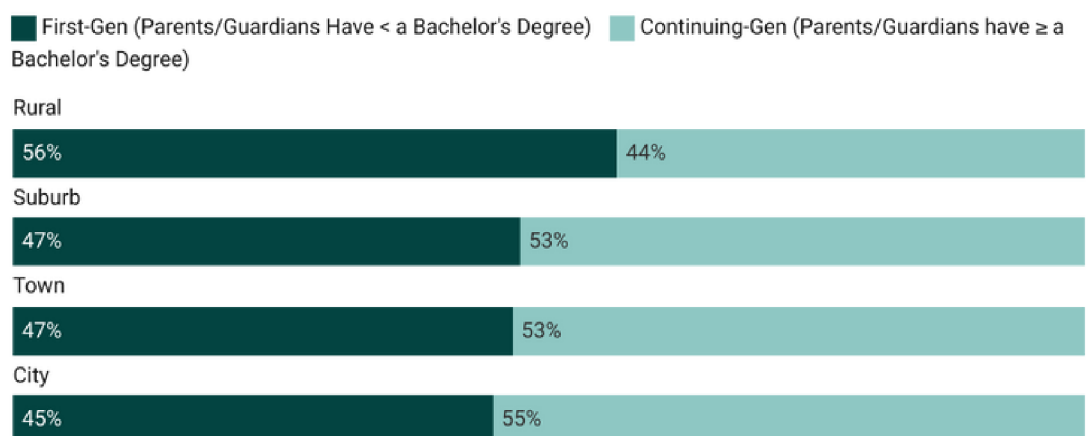
Compared to college students from cities, suburbs, or towns (degrees of urbanization), students from rural communities are more likely to be a first-generation college students (i.e., their parents or guardians have earned less than a bachelor's degree).

Students from rural communities also receive less financial support from their parents compared to students from other communities. Finally, students from rural communities are more likely to have families with less annual income than students from other communities.

## FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

Over half (56%) of rural college students are first-generation students, a figure ~10% higher than other communities (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Percent of Students Identified as First-generation or Continuing-generation by Degree or Urbanization of Students' Permanent Address**

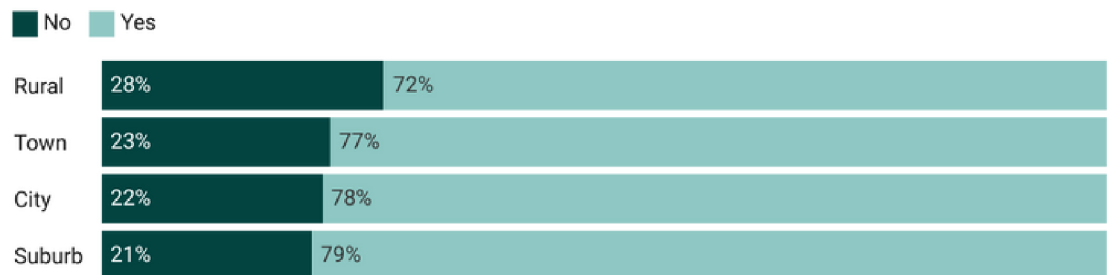


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College students from rural communities are less likely to receive financial support from their parents compared to students from cities, suburbs, or towns (Figure 2). Additionally, students from rural communities receive less overall funding from their parents/guardians (Figure 3.)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

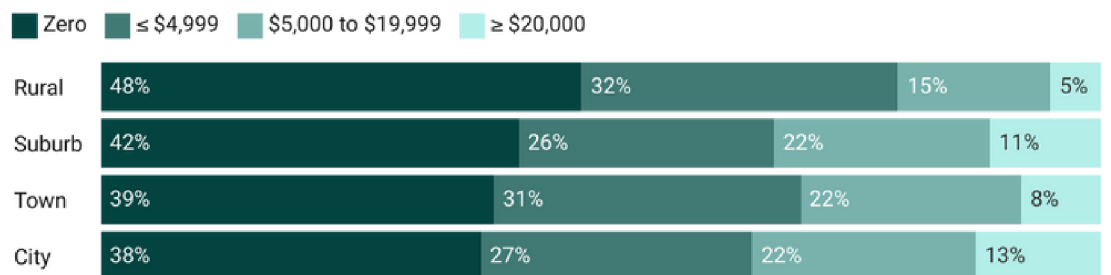
**Figure 2. Do You Receive Help from Your Parents to Pay for Housing, Tuition, or Other College Expenses?**



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## AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

**Figure 3. Amount Paid for Housing, Tuition, or Other College Expenses from Parents/Guardians, by Urbanization of Students' Permanent Address**



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### Recommended citation:

Soria, K. M., Friery, K., & Standley, E. (2024). *Rural college students: Family & finances*. AREAS Consortium.

### Methodology:

We analyzed data from the 2019-2020 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS). The National Center for Education Statistics has overseen data collection for the NPSAS every 3-4 years since 1987. The NPSAS offers a representative cross-sectional study of students enrolled in postsecondary education. Learn more about the NPSAS at <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/>.

Our research is funded by the Ascendium Education Group and the University of Idaho. Ascendium Education Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to helping people reach the education and career goals that matter to them. Ascendium invests in initiatives designed to increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds who complete postsecondary degrees, certificates and workforce training programs, with an emphasis on first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color and veterans. Ascendium's work identifies, validates and expands best practices to promote large-scale change at the institutional, system and state levels, with the intention of elevating opportunity for all. For more information, visit <https://www.ascendiumphilanthropy.org>.