

CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT SERVICE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

FAQ FOR SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

1. What is a qualifying community or volunteer service organization?

- A nonprofit as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Any federal, state, or local government entity.
- Any school on the Cal Grant Eligible Schools list on the CSAC website.

2. What requirements does a service organization need to meet to participate?

- Organization shall have been established for a minimum of two years before the first date on which a participating student begins performing service hours to qualify for this program.
- Community or volunteer service performed by the participating student is not advocacy of a political, social, or religious nature.
- Community or volunteer service is related to the participating student's field of study or is in furtherance of community service or a community need.

3. How does an organization register with the Commission?

Nonprofits and federal, state or local government entities not on the List of Service Organizations, can complete and submit the Service Organization Registration form found on the DSIG Forms webpage. Organizations will be contacted if additional verification/clarification is needed.

On-campus community or volunteer service organizations affiliated with a Cal Grant eligible school, such as outreach, student services, and multi-cultural organizations are deemed eligible and do not require additional registration. Please note that these organizations are NOT included on the [List of Service Organizations](#).

4. What volunteer activities are permissible under the requirement that “The community or volunteer service performed by the participating student is not advocacy of a political, social, or religious nature?”

A student cannot volunteer for an organization that engages *exclusively* in political, social, or religious advocacy. Therefore, participating students can only work on tasks that are unrelated to advocacy efforts for organizations that have a mix of advocacy and non-advocacy programs.

We (CSAC) will validate this requirement by reviewing all of the activities listed on the Service Hour Tracker that the accepted student submits with their Payment Requests and verify that the activities were not directly tied to any political, social, or religious advocacy, as described in the paragraph above.

We encourage you to contact dsig@csac.ca.gov if you still have questions about this requirement.