



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION



Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) March Newsletter 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this GDSM Newsletter is to keep institutions, and the student support community abreast of our monthly progress through the final transition to the new system, and quarterly for improvements deployed throughout 2021.

GDSM Sponsor Message

Catalina Mistler, GDSM Project Executive Sponsor

The finish line for the final transition to the new GDSM platform is finally in sight. I would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the re-instatement of the GDSM Champion Meeting in February to prepare institutions for the launch of WebGrants for Institutions and the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).



GDSM Champion Meeting Update

Joan Rene, GDSM Organizational Change Manager

GDSM Champion Meeting Resumes through May

GDSM Champion meetings resumed on February 25th, 2021. The GDSM Champion meetings are critical in ensuring the needs of users for each institution have the information and support they need for a smooth transition. A GDSM Champion is a representative from each institution who works with the CSAC GDSM Project to prepare their institutional users for the transition to the new look and feel of the Web Grants for Institutions interface.

February meeting: Marlene Garcia, the CSAC Executive Director opened the meeting to kick-off preparations for the release of WebGrants for Institutions and CADAA to the new unified platform. The agenda included training, support, and preparations by institutions for implementation.

A fruitful Q&A session followed. Key questions are included in the section below.

Q&A Results

Upon request of the GDSM Champions, CSAC IT Department, Training and Support are working on a checklist to assist Champions in preparing institutions for the change. Once complete a link to the checklist will be made available.

We hope the following questions and answers are also helpful:

- Q: What do we need for the first-time login process?
A: Login instructions will be provided prior to release. We are preparing a video.

- Q: What date are you planning to launch so we can complete critical work as much as possible prior to release?
A: End of April at the earliest is our target right now. This should allow institutions to complete critical work prior to release.

- Q: Will you be decommissioning the legacy system upon implementation?
A: No. We will still be leveraging some of the structure in the old system. The database is still largely the same. Data, data model, and logic from the legacy system will persist.

- Q: What about a roll-back (back-up) plan in case something goes wrong?
A: We will be able to roll back if we find critical unexpected issues after going live with GDSM.

- Q: Is your training now on the new system.
A: Our current training materials are on the legacy system. We will have training on the new system for the roll-out and going forward.

- Q: Can the campus send in a test file?
A: It is not necessary. The data structure remains constant. We are testing all the data exchanges internally multiple times with multiple files.

- Q: Will meetings continue after the roll-out?
A: Yes. The format may change for the quarterly releases where enhancements will be addressed.

Training

Jose Quiaoit and Victoria Viksne

Re-establishing your login is required once the WebGrants 4 Institutions is transitioned to the new platform. The training team will be providing the login information toward the end of March. You will be notified once the instructions are available.

An eLearning library will be available with course modules such as the Cal Grant Overview, Uploading High School GPAs and more. These modules include interactive features to ensure understanding of the material. They are available on-demand, so you will not have to wait for an upcoming webinar to learn more about the specific topic. These trainings will include updated screenshots of the new system. As new enhancements are released, additional trainings will be added to ensure understanding of the improved processes. In addition to the eLearning library, CSAC will continue to offer live webinars and eventually, per health and safety guidelines, in person trainings.

Video! View the narrated video, *New Look and Feel Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM)*.

Project Management

George Polisner, State GDSM Project Manager

We are on target to release WebGrants for Institutions this Spring. Our engineering staff has completed the last set of web forms in early March for the GDSM version of Web Grants for Institutions and are currently working on several rounds of quality assurance, integration, and performance testing.

Coming Soon

The training materials, schedules and on-demand learning availability projections will be published soon. As we get closer to the final release, we will cover the first-time login instructions for institutions. This will be the most important part of getting started.

What to Expect

Program Developments	What to Expect
CADAA	CADAA will have the same easy to use look and feel as WebGrants for Students, including increased visibility throughout the approval and award process. The CADAA will also be scalable for use on tablets and cell phones.
WebGrants for Institutions	Institutions will have a new and improved look and feel on the WebGrants for Institutions interface. The current functionality is preserved with some improvements in the presentation.
Added Functionality	Continuous program improvements will be the priority and focus through and beyond 2021 made possible by the transition to modern technology.

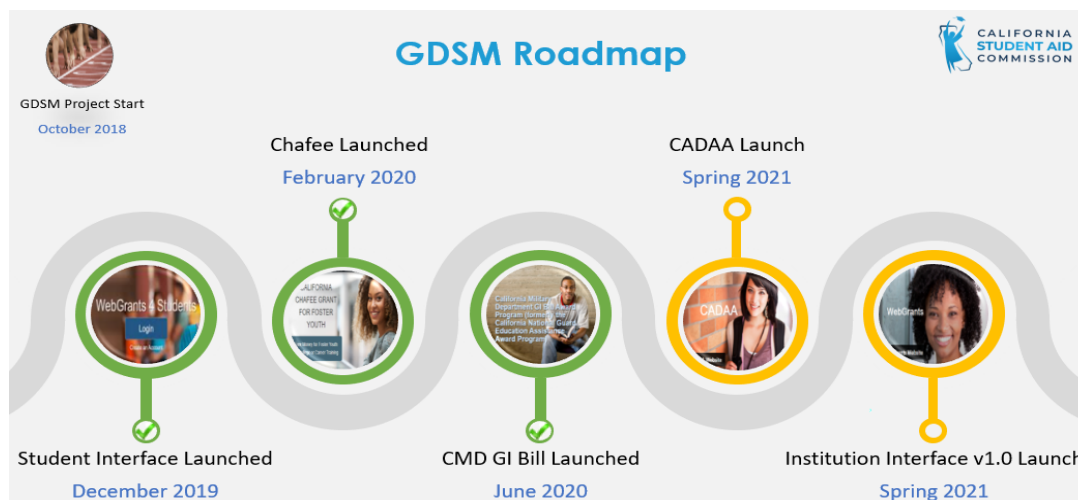
Program Developments	What to Expect
Training	<p>CSAC is in the process of updating our e-learning capabilities for high school counselors, administrators, financial aid administrators, and students. Using one of the leading eLearning authoring tools and best practices in eLearning design, this platform will transform projects into a responsive and rapid eLearning alternative for internal and external stakeholders. Some of the key features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On demand learning • Converts existing training materials into eLearning courses • Creates a new look and feel to the training modules • Offers interactive features for your training modules

GDSM Key Benefits

The Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project provides an easily accessible, one-stop shop for applying and managing the grant application and funding process. Through the GDSM Project, CSAC is completing development of a system that:

- ◆ Improves processes
- ◆ Reduces manual effort
- ◆ Increases staff productivity and efficiency
- ◆ Makes allocation of grant funds more efficient
- ◆ Improves internal and external satisfaction

Project Timeline



Contact Us

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