

Item 5

Information Item

Update on California Dream Act

This report summarizes the second year (2014-15) of the California Dream Act application and award process. The implementation year (2013-14) of the California Dream Act awards concluded with the final reconciliation in December 2014. This exhibit will provide a preliminary summary of 2014-15 awards before its final reconciliation in December 2015 and an initial review of 2015-16 new award offers.

California Dream Act Application Statistics

Table 1 shows the number of new California Dream Act applications submitted for each academic year since the program's implementation year. In addition to applying for the Cal Grant program, the California Dream Act application is used for different types of state financial aid available to AB 540 students. Therefore, those students who do not meet Cal Grant eligibility requirements use the application to be considered for other financial aid that the campus may offer them.

Table 1 New California Dream Act Applications

	2013-14 Awarded Counts	2014-15 Awarded Counts	2015-16 Awarded Counts
On Time (met March 2 deadline)	20,746	27,359	30,146
After March 2	16,524	13,163	7,341
Total Applications	37,270	40,522	37,487

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California Student Aid Commission

Table 2 shows the California Dream Act award offers and payments by segment. As shown, the UC paid rate is the highest compared to other segments.

Table 2 California Dream Act Award Offers & Payments by Segment

	2014-15			2015-16
	Awarded Counts	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Awarded Counts
Community College	3,809	2,082	55%	3,599
UC	1,146	1,023	89%	1,105
CSU	2,662	1,886	71%	2,927
Priv. 2-Yr Non-Profit	1	-	0%	1
Priv. 4-Yr/Private	242	137	57%	275
Total	7,860	5,128	65%	7,907

Table 3 below illustrates the California Dream Act paid rate by Cal Grant Program.

Table 3 California Dream Act Award Offers & Payments by Program

	2014-15			2015-16
	Awarded Counts	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Awarded Counts
High School Entitlement	6,367	4,127	65%	6,704
Transfer Entitlement	1,213	883	73%	990
Cal Grant C	280	118	42%	213
Total	7,860	5,128	65%	7,907

Updates to the 2015-16 California Dream Act Application and Website

Improvements to both the Commission's website and California Dream Act application were made to better serve students and campuses utilizing the application. Commission staff gathered feedback from external stakeholders to ensure enhancements being made would improve not only the function of the application, but also its maneuverability and access to vital information.

California Student Aid Commission

In order for male students to receive a financial aid payment, they must register with the U.S. Selective Service System (Selective Service). As reported in past Commission meetings, this is one of the barriers for male Dreamers with a Cal Grant award to receive a timely payment. The FAFSA currently allows applicants to register with the Selective Service online. In an effort to streamline the Selective Service registration process and align itself with the FAFSA, the Commission revised the 2015-16 California Dream Act Application to include an acknowledgement and optional Selective Service registration statement. Commission staff is currently working with the Selective Service agency to create a data exchange to electronically register the male students that answered yes on the Dream Act application. Commission staff anticipates the registration option will help reduce confusion and streamline the Selective Service registration for applicants and should avoid delays in their financial aid disbursement.

2016-17 California Dream Act Application Update

Commission staff has reviewed the consolidated list of enhancements, requested by key stakeholders, for the 2016-17 California Dream Act application. The Commission staff is focused on addressing some enhancements and providing an update on these requirements at the next California Dream Act Workgroup committee meeting. Commission staff will continue to work with external stakeholders on the California Dream Act program.

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