

Item 15

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 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 Counts	2014-15 Counts	2015-16 Counts
On Time (met March 2 deadline)	20,746	27,365	30,540
After March 2	16,524	13,167	9,056
Total Applications	37,270	40,532	39,596

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 Count	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Awarded Count	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate
Community College	3,825	2,104	55%	3,903	724	19%
UC	1,143	1,026	90%	1,188	640	54%
CSU	2,644	1,901	72%	2,855	1,009	35%
Priv. 2-Yr Non-Profit	1	-	0%	1	-	0%
Priv. 4-Yr/Priv. Grad	239	137	57%	264	60	23%
Total	7,852	5,168	66%	8,211	2,433	30%

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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 Count	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Awarded Count	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate
High School Entitlement	6,372	4,159	65%	6,923	2,026	29%
Transfer Entitlement	1,200	892	74%	1,078	381	35%
Cal C	280	117	42%	210	26	12%
Total	7,852	5,168	66%	8,211	2,433	30%

Table 4 shows the breakdown of the 2,684 Dream Act students that have not been paid for the 2014-15 year. The Dream Act students that have a NA, FI and no code reported will have their Cal Grant awards withdrawn on November 30, 2015 if no further action is taken. Essentially, 1,887 of the 2,684 unpaid students will be withdrawn. Although the 1,887 students have received multiple communications already to take action on their Cal Grant award, staff plans to communicate with the students one final time before the award is withdrawn. Staff also will speak to several of the students to find the reasons why their Cal Grant award was not utilized.

**Table 4
2014-15 Unpaid California Dream Act Award Offers by reason code**

Reason Reported In WebGrants	Count
Not in Attendance (NA) – student is on the WebGrants roster, but campus official has determined student is not in attendance. Email is sent to student to do a school change.	667
Leave of Absence (LA) – used by a student or campus official to indicate student is taking a term or year off. This code preserves the Cal Grant award for the student (except new competitive)	523
Incomplete File (FI) – used to indicate that student has not submitted all requested financial aid documents to financial aid office.	273
Less than half-time (LH) – unable to disburse Cal Grant as student is taking less than 6 units	132
CC reserve - system generated – automatically done by GDS for Cal Grant A	92
Not making academic progress (NP) - unable to disburse Cal Grant as student does not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards	50
No code reported – if no action is taken, students will be withdrawn by November 30, 2015	947
Total	2,684

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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.

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 provide 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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