

Item 8

Information/Action Item

Consideration of proposed 2016-17 Cal-SOAP consortia allocations

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE(S)

This is a standing item on the agenda which provides an update on the California Student Opportunity and Access Program's (Cal-SOAP) activities and services for the current fiscal year. The report includes: 1) Commission staff's program administration updates, and 2) the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed 2016-17 Cal-SOAP consortia allocations. It is important to note that the funding model is contingent upon the enactment of the State Budget Act (currently proposed at \$7,721,000) at the allocation levels recommended by Commission staff, and authorize the Executive Director flexibility to reallocate funds as equitably as possible if a project cannot utilize all of its allocated funds.

Suggested motion:

Approve the 2016-17 Total Budget Allocations to the Cal-SOAP Consortia as listed in Table 1, Cal-SOAP 2016-17 Proposed Budget Allocation; and grant the Executive Director flexibility to reallocate funds as equitably as possible if a project cannot utilize all of its allocated funds.

BRIEF HISTORY OF KEY ISSUE(S):

The California State Legislature established the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) in 1978. The Cal-SOAP program consists of regional consortia of K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and non-profit and community-based organizations whose aim is to increase postsecondary education opportunities for students who are from low-income families, first-generation college students, who come from schools or regions with low college eligibility or college-going rates.

Today, the program operates through 14 locally governed consortia throughout the state. Each project's governing board consists of representatives from local secondary school districts, community colleges, universities, career technical schools, and community agencies. The governing boards of each Cal-SOAP project determine the services and college access needs of its local schools and communities. However, all of the projects are to: (1) increase the availability of information on postsecondary schooling and work opportunities and; (2) raise

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the achievement levels of these students so as to increase the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary learning opportunities.

Existing law also allows projects to assist community college students in transferring to four-year institutions, to the extent that project resources are available. The projects may also provide assistance to middle school students to help motivate them to prepare themselves for college preparatory courses. These efforts are to inform students and their parents of the future availability of financial aid resources available should they prepare themselves for postsecondary education and/or training.

The Cal-SOAP program was previously funded through the Federal College Access Grant Program (Challenge Grant) until its expiration on September 30, 2015. The program is currently funded through the State General Fund. In order for the current 14 Cal-SOAP projects to effectively begin preparing for the 2016-17 academic year activities, consideration and approval of the proposed funding allocations is crucial.

ANALYSIS:

2016-17 Funding Recommendations

The May Revision of the 2016-17 Governor's Budget includes \$7,721,000 (General Fund) for Cal-SOAP. Providing the Project Directors with a projected allocation now, allows them to plan effectively with their fiscal agents and financial partners, and enables them to provide services beginning with the new fiscal year on July 1, 2016. The consortia have already prepared and submitted their 2016-17 Annual Program Plans (APP) with the understanding that if there are any changes to the proposed allocations, their APPs will need to be revised.

Funding recommendations take into account baseline allocations, continuation of funding for Career Technical Education (CTE), continued database development, and resources to promote Middle Class Scholarship program outreach as noted below:

1. Baseline funding

Staff recommends approval of the 2016-17 proposed allocations shown in Table 1, Cal-SOAP 2016-17 Proposed Budget Allocation Chart. These include funding for Career Technical Education (CTE) and Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) outreach activities as described below, as well as the return of funding that each consortium had previously agreed to be pooled for various projects assisting all consortia, including database development and improvements and the 2015 Cal-SOAP evaluation report. Based on discussion with the Project Directors, and to help restore funding from previous reductions, the return of the funding to the consortia includes adjustments to increase the least funded consortia to a minimum level of \$300,000.

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2. Cal-SOAP's CTE baseline funding

Staff recommends continued allocation of funding for Career Technical Education consistent with funding approved for the 2015-16 allocation model.

3. Middle Class Scholarship Outreach

In 2013, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to work with the Project Directors to develop a methodology to allocate the \$500,000 allotted for outreach for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) program. Staff developed an approach that divided the state into nine regions that took into consideration the location of University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses. Each project was asked to submit a proposal indicating how they would conduct outreach in regions that was focused on the high schools with families with incomes likely to qualify for the MCS scholarship. This approach required projects to expand outreach services to high schools beyond those typically served by their consortium.

4. Specific MCS Outreach Materials

Additionally, \$95,000 of the MCS allocation was allocated to the East Bay Consortium for specific outreach material identified by Commission staff, such as MCS flyers, videos and other social media projects. Funds allocated for MCS cannot be used for student tutoring and does not require matching resources.

Commission staff recommends re-allocating \$95,000 for MCS outreach for the 2016-17 program year for additional printing, videos and/or other social media projects, as determined by Commission staff.

The 2016-17 May Revision of the Governor's Budget provides Cal-SOAP the following baseline funding:

2016-17	
Proposed State GF Funding	\$ 7,721,000
Cal-SOAP	\$ 6,221,000
Career Technical Education (CTE)	\$ 1,000,000
Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)	\$ 500,000

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Table 1, below, provides staff recommendations on the distribution of the proposed Cal SOAP Fiscal Year 2016-17 State General Fund support. The consortia are aware that Cal-SOAP funding is dependent on approval by the Legislature and the Governor in the 2016-17 Budget Act and that, as such, adjustments may need to be made based on the enacted Budget Act.

**Table 1 - CAL-SOAP
2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION**

Consortium	Baseline	Career Technical Education Baseline	* MCS Outreach	Total Budget Allocations
Central Coast	\$ 310,093	\$ 66,667	\$ 45,000	\$ 421,760
Central Valley	\$ 306,308	\$ 66,667	\$ 22,500	\$ 395,475
East Bay & Solano*	\$ 758,564	\$ 133,329	\$ 137,500	\$ 1,029,393
Long Beach	\$ 315,139	\$ 66,667	\$ 45,000	\$ 426,806
Los Angeles	\$ 604,206	\$ 66,667	\$ 45,000	\$ 715,873
Merced	\$ 313,247	\$ 66,667	\$ 22,500	\$ 402,414
Northcoast	\$ 343,838	\$ 66,667	\$ 11,249	\$ 421,754
Sacramento	\$ 540,946	\$ 66,667	\$ 33,751	\$ 641,364
San Diego/Imperial Co.	\$ 920,910	\$ 66,667	\$ 45,000	\$ 1,032,577
San Francisco	\$ 305,677	\$ 66,667	\$ 2,500	\$ 374,844
San Jose	\$ 427,612	\$ 66,667	\$ 23,661	\$ 517,940
Santa Barbara	\$ 445,459	\$ 66,667		\$ 512,126
South County Gilroy	\$ 317,647	\$ 66,667	\$ 21,339	\$ 405,653
South San Joaquin	\$ 311,354	\$ 66,667	\$ 45,000	\$ 423,021
Total	\$ 6,221,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 7,721,000

* Commission staff recommends allocating \$95,000 to East Bay Consortium for specific MCS outreach materials.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

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