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California Student Aid Commission Collaborates with Golden State Warriors Community Foundation and California Department of Education to announce, "All in for FAFSA/CA Dream Act" Campaign

"Don't miss your shot. Apply now for financial aid to pay for college. This is real money you don't have to repay. You deserve a chance to get a college education." -Stephen Curry, Golden State Warriors Guard

SACRAMENTO, Calif., January 19, 2023 – The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is proud to collaborate with the Golden State Warriors Community Foundation and the California Department of Education on the release of a <u>public service announcement (PSA)</u> speaking to importance of students applying for financial aid.

This message is part of CSAC's "All in for FAFSA/CA Dream Act" campaign, an initiative to support implementation of Assembly Bill 469, which established a new expectation that California high schools and school districts ensure all 12th graders complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA), unless the student formally submits an opt-out waiver. The goal of "All In for FAFSA/CA Dream Act" is to expand access to financial aid to thousands of students who may have otherwise not been aware of these opportunities. California is only one of seven states in the country to implement this type of requirement.

CSAC has created the <u>"All in for FAFSA/CA Dream Act" landing page</u>, where students, families, educators, and other supporters can find various financial aid resources including but not limited to flyers, posters, checklists, postcards, and more.

"We are grateful to the Warriors Community Foundation and the California Department of Education for their collaboration. We know that when students come across a PSA with Stephen Curry and Coach Steve Kerr speaking to the importance of applying for financial aid,

that they will feel inspired to not only apply for aid, but ultimately pursue an education that matches their goals" said CSAC Executive Director Marlene Garcia. "This collective, statewide approach will spur a culture change in college going in California so we help all high school seniors understand that they can pursue educational opportunities beyond high school and can count on financial aid to help pay their costs".

"Don't miss your shot. Apply now for financial aid to pay for college. This is real money you don't have to repay. You deserve a chance to get a college education," Stephen Curry said in the PSA.

"We hope this message helps California students become aware of financial aid opportunities and ultimately removes financial barriers to college so that they can go on to do great things," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond. "My hope is that by addressing the economic hurdles to higher education, many of our talented students can return to the classroom as educators to help uplift future generations."

The official kick-off date for the new financial aid season was October 1, when California students and their families began to <u>apply</u> to receive financial aid for the 2023-2024 academic year. The state priority deadline in which students can qualify for the most financial aid possible and receive preliminary information on how much financial aid they can attain is March 2, 2023. Students attending a California Community College have through September 2, 2023.

Interested students and families can also attend free Cash for College <u>workshops</u> near them or virtually through <u>Cash for College Statewide Webinars</u> for help in applying for financial aid. Additionally, students and their families can connect to local financial aid experts in their area for additional assistance; the <u>California Student Opportunity and Access Program</u> (Cal-SOAP) and the <u>Cash for College Regional Coordinating Organizations</u> (RCOs) are local resources that assist with financial aid literacy by conducting workshops for students and families.

The commission is committed to carrying out its mission in promoting educational equity by making postsecondary education affordable for all Californians. Students can access financial aid applications via the Commission's homepage at https://www.csac.ca.gov/.

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The California Student Aid Commission administers a portfolio of over \$3 billion in student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at https://www.csac.ca.gov/ or follow us on Social Media by clicking on our Link Tree, https://linktr.ee/castudentaid.