



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

July 11, 2019

GSA 2019-20

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **California Chafee Grant Program Updates**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update to [GSA 2019-18](#) regarding the process for addressing 2018-19 Remaining Funds.

2018-19 Remaining Funds

At the time of this notice, there are \$640,986 in remaining Chafee funds to pay eligible students. The Commission's goal is to maximize the utilization of available funds for the Chafee program.

- To maximize the number of students who are awarded, the Commission will be **recycling awards every two weeks** rather than every 30 days. Students who lose their award due to the recycle process can be considered again if the Financial Aid Officer updates the payment roster.
- Institutions are encouraged to review their Payment Roster on WebGrants to certify and request payments for all eligible Chafee students. As a reminder, the 2018-19 Summer term for the California Chafee Grant Program (Chafee Program) opened June 1st, 2018. Financial aid administrators are now able to certify students and request payments for students who have not already received their maximum award amount (\$5,000) for the 2018-19 AY and are attending a Summer term.
- We will resume our normal 30 day recycle process for the 2019-20 academic year.

Non-Disbursed Chafee Checks

- All non-disbursed checks must be returned to the Commission **within 30 business** days of receipt. This will allow the Commission to maximize the utilization of available Chafee funds.
- **Complete the form that is attached to the check, and do NOT void the check. Return both to:**

California Student Aid Commission
PO BOX 419027
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9027

2018-19 Institutional Reconciliation

- Students can apply for 2018-19 Chafee awards until **August 30, 2019**.
- The last 2018-19 *Chafee payment cycle** will be processed on **September 23, 2019** (**The last time our system will award students based on the priority selection criteria.*)

Institutions should update their *Institution Reconciliation* screen to report all disbursed and returned checks by **September 27, 2019**.

2019-20 Chafee Awards and Eligibility

- The Commission anticipates running the 2019-20 award process in mid-July.
- To be considered for a Chafee award, applicants (new and renewal) must submit the 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA).
- New Chafee applicants must submit a Chafee Application. The 2019-20 Chafee Application is available on the Commission's website at <https://chafee.csac.ca.gov/>.
- New Chafee applicants must have their foster care eligibility confirmed through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The paper form is only necessary if CDSS does not provide the Foster Youth Eligibility information electronically.
- New Chafee applicants must not have reached 26 years of age by July 1 of the award year.

Need to contact us?

- The Commission's Chafee team is available if you need assistance or have questions: chafee@csac.ca.gov / 888-224-7268, option 3.

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!