California Student Aid Commission

2019 Cal Grant Regional Training

For College Financial Aid Administrators
Day One Agenda

1. CSAC Updates
2. Institutional Eligibility
3. Cal Grant Overview
4. Dream Act Application
5. Payments Overview

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
California Student Aid Commission

CSAC Updates
New Executive Director-Marlene L. Garcia
The California Student Aid Commission was created in 1955.

Test your knowledge! Approximately how much state aid is administered by the California Student Aid Commission each year?

- $100 million dollars
- $725 million dollars
- $2.2+ billion dollars
- $4 billion dollars
- $100 billion dollars
California Student Aid Commission

Recent Changes

Institutional Support was split into 2 units to create a dedicated Training & Outreach team to better serve our stakeholders, including students and their families, high school counselors, financial aid advisors, and the education community.

*Institutional Support Unit*

- Supports High Schools
- WebGrants & GPAs
- Matching & Editing
- Supports Colleges

*Training & Outreach Unit*

- Ad Hoc Trainings
- Specialized Webinars
- Statewide Financial Aid Workshops
- Regional Trainings

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM Project)

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM)

- GDSM will replace CSAC’s WebGrants system with a more compatible and user-friendly one that can better interact with multiple internet browsers and mobile devices.

- CSAC hopes to integrate all main Commission administered programs into one system.

- Project launch date for the initial phase is targeted for 2020-2021 academic year.
Grant Delivery System Modernization

Student Interface

Student Login Page

• Will be accessible from the CSAC home page, csac.ca.gov
Grant Delivery System Modernization

WebGrants 4 Students

- Tile-based interface
- More comprehensive
- Green = Awarded
- Orange = Award pending
- Red = Not awarded

The new WebGrants 4 Students will be accessible on most devices, browsers, and operating systems.
Grant Delivery System Modernization

Dream Act Application Home Page
Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM Project)

- The Student Login page and portal are nearly ready, but may not have full functionality right away. We are having students test the Student Portal as it is being built.

- The California Dream Act Application interface is currently being updated and we anticipate rolling it out at the same time as the student portal.

- The new WebGrants interface that supports colleges will be developed after the student portal. When those screens are in ‘Beta’ mode, we will have representatives from different school segments provide input, as those sections are being built.
Recent Legislative Changes

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
New for the 2019-2020 Academic Year

Cal Grant Award for Students with Dependent Children

Students with dependent children under 18 years of age for whom they provide more than 50% support can qualify for an increased Access Award

- For students attending public institutions
- The current Cal Grant A Access award (including CCC reserve students) will increase to a maximum of $6,000
- The current Cal Grant B Access award will increase to a maximum of $6,000
- The current Cal Grant C Books/Supplies award will increase to a maximum of $4,000

As with current Cal Grant programs, students can receive this award for a maximum of four full-time years (400% lifetime eligibility).

- Exception: Cal Grant B for foster youth may receive up to 800% maximum eligibility.
Foster Youth Status Verification

Senate Bill 12 (SB 12) tasked CSAC and the California Department of Social Services with developing an automated system for colleges to verify a student’s status as a foster youth

A new feature in the WebGrants system provides Cal Grant participating institutions the ability to verify a student’s status as current or former foster youth to aid in the processing of applications for federal financial aid. **This is a tool to use in verifying potential eligibility for FEDERAL AID and CAMPUS PROGRAMS for Foster Youth (i.e. not Chafee).**
Chafee Grant Eligibility Expanded

• Chafee Grant eligibility has expanded to include students who have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1\textsuperscript{st} of the award year

• Chafee Grant participation is limited to 5 years (they do not have to be consecutive)

• Students who have previously applied for a Chafee Grant only need to renew their FAFSA/CADAA to receive consideration under this provision

• Previously age-ineligible participants have been renewed

23 \rightarrow 26

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
Timely Degree Completion

Effective January 1, 2019, new legislation (AB 2248) requires CSAC and Cal Grant participating institutions to notify students in writing of the following:

• Cal Grant A and B awards are limited to 4 academic years

• Students need to take 15 units per semester, or the equivalent quarter units, in order to graduate within four years

15 units per semester

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
Cal Grant B for Foster Youth

Expansion of Cal Grant B

- May be renewed for a total of 8-years for current or former foster youth (FY)

- FY students may be considered for a Cal Grant B High School Entitlement Award as long as they have not reached their 26th birthday before July 1st of the award year

- Application deadline extended to September 2nd for FY Cal Grant B High School Entitlement applicants attending a community college
Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

SEARS

2018-19 Student Expenses and Resources Survey

• Overall 151,000 students were sampled. The survey was complete as of April, 2019.
• Survey Response Rates: 9.6% Overall
  UC – 10.0%
  CSU – 11.9%
  CCC – 7.5%
  Non-Profit – 14.0%
  For-Profit – 9.0%
• September - Present final report to Commission
• We are tentatively planning on releasing regional student expense budgets for the 2020-21 academic year
Cal Grant Reform Recommendations

AB 1314 will consolidate Cal Grant A, B, C, and MCS into one program
Cal Grant Reform Recommendations

- The Century Foundation’s report *Expanding Opportunity, Reducing Debt: Reforming Student Aid* was released in April of 2018

- The policy positions adopted by the Commission for reforming the Cal Grant programs are to:
  - Remove or reduce eligibility and access barriers
  - Focus on total cost of attendance, including maintaining full coverage of tuition and systemwide fees for public college and university students
  - Reinstate a formula for an annual maximum Cal Grant for students attending private nonprofit institutions
  - Support additional Cal Grant eligibility for students taking summer coursework
Questions?

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.