California

Student Aid Commission

CSAC Update

2018 CCCSFAAA Conference

Presented By:
California Student Aid Commission

Agenda

1. Financial Aid Consolidation Report
2. Student Expense and Resources Survey (SEARS)
3. Grant Delivery Modernization Project
4. 2018-19 Race to Submit
5. 2018 Cal Grant Regional Training
6. Educational Level Verification
7. Cal Grant C program
8. Cal Grant Competitive Scoring Matrix
9. 2018-19 CA Dream Act Application
10. CA Chafee Grant for Foster Youth
11. Cash for College
12. Program Compliance

Financial Aid Consolidation Report

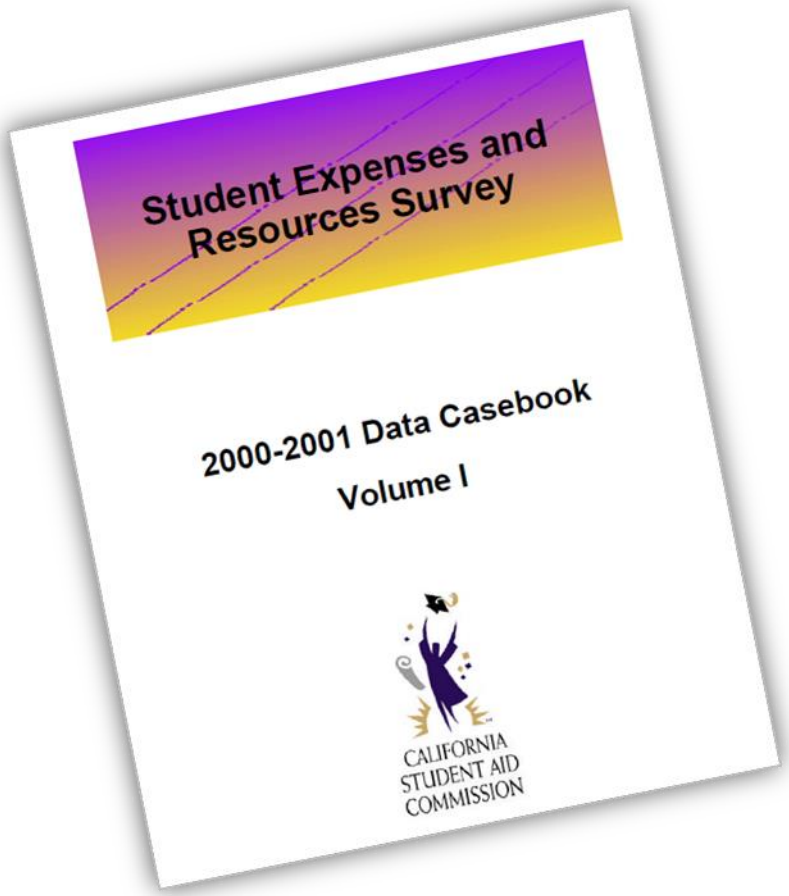
- Built off of the Degrees Not Debt proposal
- Seeking to:
  - Identify options for improving affordability at CA colleges and universities
  - Suggest methods for streamlining and consolidating existing programs
  - Find strategies to reduce or eliminate the need to rely on student loan debt
- The program would begin in the 2019-20 academic year
- Report was presented at the March 8-9 Commission Meeting

Financial Aid Consolidation Report

Recommendations:

- Simplify the system to increase student access and understanding and reduce bureaucratic red tape:
  - One Cal Grant entitlement available without regard to students' age, time out of high school, high school GPA, or other factors
- Shift from focus on tuition to focus on entire student budget or "cost of attendance" to better meet students' financial need
  - Minimize reliance on work and loans for all California students

Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS)



- Tool to determine the costs associated with obtaining a postsecondary education in California (Education Code 69514)
- An Advisory Committee has been formed to identify the questions to be included in the survey and timeline for administering it (currently meeting regularly).
- The goal is to have survey results analyzed to develop the 2019-20 student expense budgets.

Why This Study is Important

- Large scale and high quality
- All segments
- Insights on non-traditional students
- Regional variations

Inform state & national conversations on financial aid policy

Covers Full Range of Expenses & Outcome

Housing
Including housing security

Food
Including food security

Transportation

Books & Supplies

Personal Care

Health Costs, *including uncovered by insurance*

Dependent Care

Employment

Other income, *including perception of adequacy*

Timeline: What's Happened and What's Next?

Survey development

- Develop original draft
- Expert feedback
- Stakeholder input
- Pretesting
- Final survey

Sampling

- Consult with segments
- Develop plan
- Assist segments
- Collect lists
- Final sample

Study approvals

- MOU template
- Final MOUs
- IRB submission
- IRB approval

What's The Same and What's New

Same

- Core questions to calculate student budget
- Capture types of resources
- Include all higher education segments

New

- Web-based survey for all segments
- Consistent sampling and administration
- Alignment with surveys capturing basic needs
- Regional estimates

What We Learned From Students

- Were questions understandable?
- Did we cover main topics?
- How can we encourage responses?

"Kind of got it all"

"Was broken down pretty well"

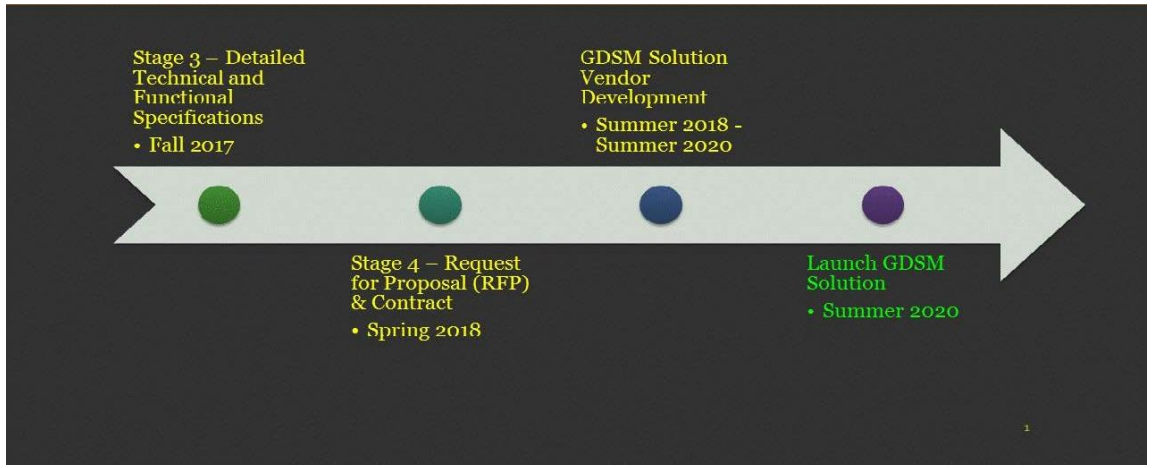
"Helps to know there's a solution"

"The most important thing is the time it takes"

"Known and trusted source"

Grant Delivery Modernization Project (GDSM)

PROJECT SCHEDULE



- The GDSM team continues to work with the CDT through the state's Stage/Gate project approval lifecycle.
- Currently progressing through the Stage 3 Solution Development Phase
- Stage 3 involves developing Business Architecture, Information Architecture, Technology Architecture and crafting an RFP or multiple RFOs to hire contracted services

2018-19 Race to Submit

- Statewide Campaign and Dashboard tool to encourage high schools and districts to track and increase the total number of completed financial aid applications through the March 2 Cal Grant deadline.

California
Student Aid Commission

2018 Cal Grant Regional Training

- Geared towards new/newer financial aid administrators
- 2-day training conducted in May and June
- Confirmed and potential hosts for 2018:

San Diego Christian College	Confirmed host
Cañada College	Confirmed host
University of Southern California	Confirmed host
UC Merced – Fresno Campus	Confirmed host
Los Angeles Mission College	Confirmed host
Palo Alto University	Potential location
Sacramento County Office of Education	Confirmed host

- Topics that will be covered:
  - Cal Grant Program Overview
  - Payments and Reconciliation
  - Navigating WebGrants
  - Institutional Eligibility
  - Middle Class Scholarship and Specialized Programs
- Registration is scheduled to open by the end of March (Grant Special Alert)

Educational Level Verification

- 2017-18 first year of performing EL Verification
- Confusion over using maximum grade level of two for community college campus/segment or using earned units
- Initial results show some campuses verifying maximum grade level of two, while others use earned units
- CSAC recommendation….

Cal Grant C

Award Year	C-Supplements Sent	C-Supplements Received	C-Supplement % Returned	Offered Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Percentage of 7,761 awards
2014-15	63,050	11,763	18.66%	11,111	6,188	79.73%
2015-16	58,937	9,007	15.28%	8,558	4,293	55.32%
2016-17	36,224	7,738	21.36%	7,508	4,490	57.85%
2017-18	57,585	10,477	18.19%	9,383	5,194	66.92%

Cal Grant C

- Are the C-Supplements sent to the wrong students?
- How can we increase more participation with higher C-supplements returned, paid rates?
- Continued discussion with CCCCO and EDGE Coalition
- Data exchange opportunities

Cal Grant Competitive Scoring Matrix

- Issue with competitive applicants not receiving points in the socioeconomic category (80 pts) due to the skip logic in the FAFSA
  - federal benefits (SNAP, TANF, etc.)
- The Commission adopted a short-term solution at its March Commission Meeting which reallocates the 80 pts of the socioeconomic category to the other four 80-pt categories.
- The goal is to structure the competitive scoring matrix to offer the limited awards to the neediest students.

Expected Family Contribution	250
Family Income & Household Size	250
Grade Point Average	100
Household Status	100
Education/Access Equalizer	100
Parent Education Level	100
~~Disadvantaged / Socioeconomic Indicators~~	0
Family/Environmental Indicators	100

Competitive Paid Rates

	Community College Paid	Community College Paid Percentage of 27,120	Total Overall Paid	Total Paid Percentage of 25,750
2017-18	16,200	60%	22,241	86.4%

Award Cycle	Initial Cutoff Score	Post-Recycle Cutoff Score	Unpaid Awards Withdrawn	Awarded in Recycle
March 2, 2017	647	620	5,853	5,518
Sept. 2, 2017	662	652	3,199	3,176
		Total →	**9,052**	**8,694**

California
Student Aid Commission

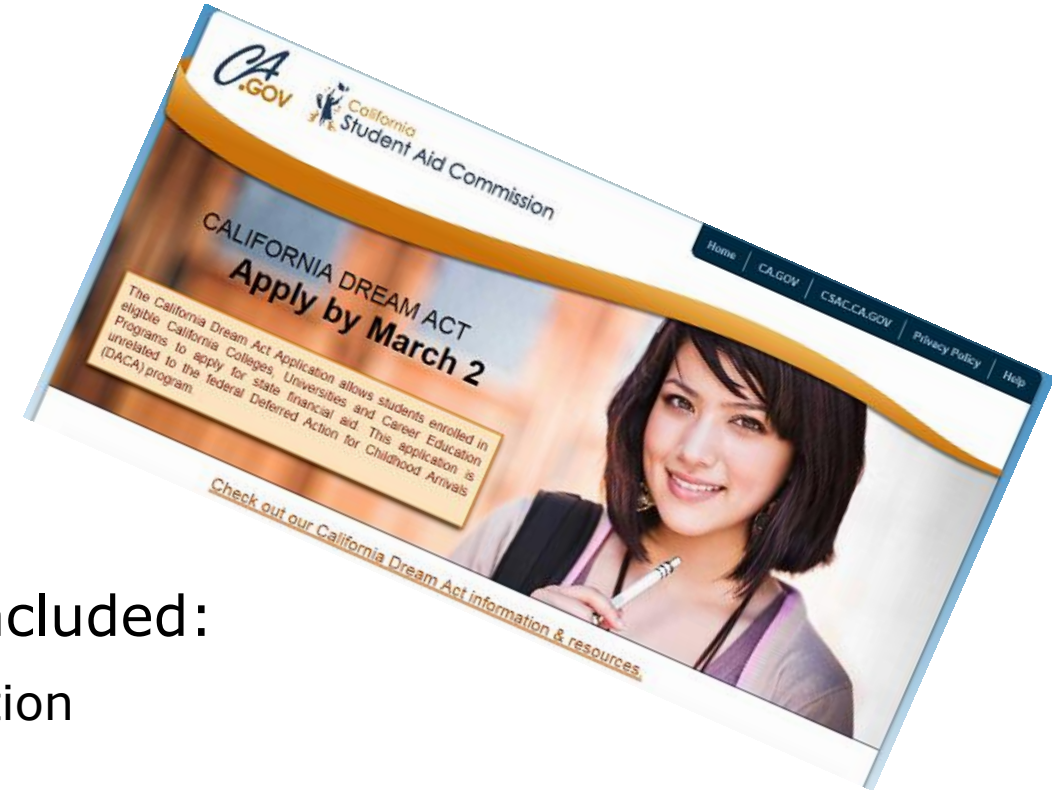
2018-19 CA Dream Act Application

- New Dream Act Applications by Academic Year

Data as of 3/7/2018

	2015-16 Counts	2016-17 Counts	2017-18 Counts	2018-19 Counts
On Time (met March 2 deadline)	30,775	34,207	36,135	37,612
After March 2	12,909	14,077	13,530	328
Total Applications	43,684	48,284	49,665	37,940

*Not the final counts for 2017-18 & 2018-19



- Outreach efforts prior to March 2nd deadline included:
  - Joint letter with the California Department of Education
  - Participated in Univision's financial aid phone banks
  - Numerous emails sent to Dream Act students
  - Provided several media interviews (Executive Director)
  - Press release encouraging FAFSA and CADAA submissions

CA Dream Act Paid Rates

Data as of 03/12/2018

Segment	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	Offered Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Offered Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Offered Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate
Community College	4,745	2,667	56%	4,847	1,915	40%	1,545	0	0%
All Segments	9,181	6,248	68%	9,450	5,023	53%	4,657	0	0%

- Opportunities to improve paid rates for Dream Act students attending CCCs – Open discussion

California
Student Aid Commission

2019-20 CADAA Workgroup

- 2019-20 Workgroup reconvened in January 2018, to identify potential enhancements to the application

- CADAA Training Site available
  - A test site that allows users to fill out an application without submitting it
  - Primarily for counselors or staff who want to become familiar with the application before working with students

https://training.csac.ca.gov/DreamApp_TRN/Default.aspx

CA Chafee Grant for Foster Youth

- 2017-18 Award Summary
  - 3117 Active Awards
  - 1286 New
  - 1831 Renewals
- Award Distribution by Segment
  - 1973 CA Community College
  - 580 CSU
  - 152 UC
  - 214 Private
  - 198 Out of State
- 2018-19 Awarding (April date TBD)

Cash for College

- A total of 1,067 workshops were conducted through March 2, 2018 which served well over 30,000 students and their families (surveys).

- 589 Workshops to be completed before January 1, 2018
  - October – 370
  - November – 244
  - December – 98
  - January - 113
  - February - 233
  - March - 9

Program Compliance

- Introduction of New CSAC Audit Manager, Kirk Marston
- Update regarding 2017 Audit Plan and Prior Audits
- 2018 Audit Plan and Future Audits

California

Student Aid Commission

Questions?

Institutional Support Unit

1-888-294-0153

Schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov