



Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) November Newsletter 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this GDSM Newsletter is to keep institutions, and the student support community abreast of our progress monthly through the final transition to the new system, and quarterly for improvements deployed throughout 2021.

GDSM Sponsor Message

Catalina Mistler, GDSM Project Executive Sponsor

NEW SCHEDULE

As the Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project reaches the final stretch, we at the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), want to ensure a successful transition for the user community. CSAC has decided to move the release of the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and WebGrants for Institutions to Spring 2021. The new schedule will better accommodate the user community and minimize impact to business.

PRESENTATION

Last month, we provided a sneak peek at the new look and feel of the WebGrants for Institutions. This month we are including a comprehensive presentation on the GDSM system with the new schedule and more screen comparisons between the current and new system. Each month we will provide additional materials to keep you abreast of the changes, availability of training and additional status updates of the GDSM Project.



Project Management

George Polisner, State GDSM Project Manager

SPRING RELEASE: QUALITY FOCUS

We have delayed the scheduled launch of GDSM WebGrants from November 30, 2020 to Spring of 2021 (launch date to be determined by Program/Awarding schedule).

Extending the schedule allows us to initiate additional quality measures to minimize the impact of transitioning to the new platform for WebGrants for Institutions and CADAA. The new schedule includes adding time to core development and to thoroughly test and exercise all parts of the system through multiple testing cycles.

We are projecting core development work to sunset January 31, 2021. This represents an additional two months of application development work effort. February 2021 will be dedicated to rigorous quality assurance and regression testing cycles, code defect remediation, and retesting. It is projected that by late winter/early spring we will have GDSM WebGrants ready and available to replace the current WebGrants system.

This refined, projected schedule provides additional time for multiple and orderly cycles of testing for the finished product which includes over ninety complex web screens/forms and their requisite integration with the entire GDSM system such as identity management, clustered database nodes, and cloud web services.



Added Functionality Updates: Migrated Programs

The GDSM development continues once programs are moved to the new unified platform. Below are some of the enhancements added to Programs that have been migrated to the new GDSM platform.

Program	Improvement Implemented
October 2020 (new) Chafee Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Home link on the Foster Youth Application (https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/fosteryouthapplication) now redirects to correct Chafee home page on the CSAC website.
September 2020 WebGrants for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award Status Card now displays the link to Cal Grant Appeals G-18 Form that shows how to submit an appeal. Many of the students need a little additional information about submitting an appeal. This link navigates students to the G-18 form page on the CSAC website.
July August 2020 WebGrants for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School of Attendance Card now displays the amounts for students who are in a pending status based on the school• A Link was added to the Cal Grant Award Amount FAQs Sheet for students to get more information about the award amounts at specific campuses.

Coming Soon

The training materials, schedules and on-demand learning availability projections will be published a few months prior to release for planning purposes. As we get closer to the final release, we will cover the first-time login instructions for CADAA and the institutions. This will be the most important part of getting started.

What to Expect

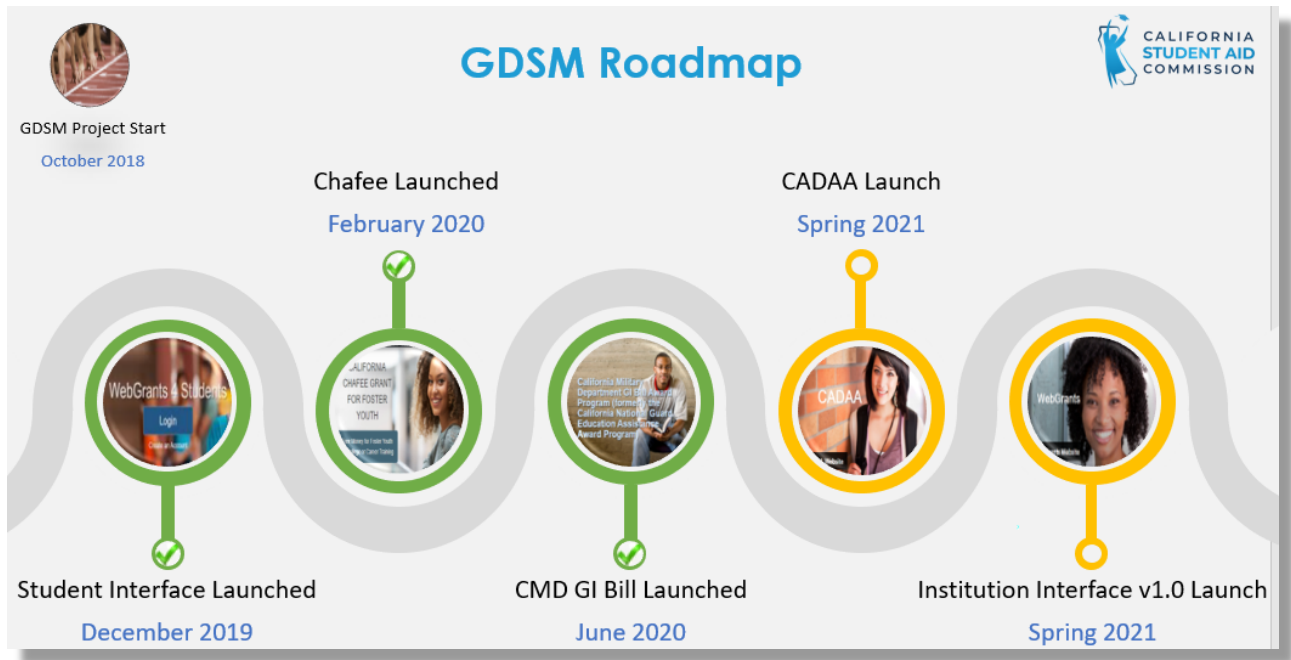
Program Developments	What to Expect
CADAA	CADAA will have the same easy to use look and feel as the Student Landing Page, including increased visibility throughout the approval and award process. The CADAA will also be scalable for use on tablets and cell phones.
WebGrants for Institutions	Institutions will have a new and improved look and feel on the WebGrants for Institutions page. The current functionality is preserved with some improvements in the presentation.
Added Functionality	Continuous program improvements will be the priority and focus through and beyond 2021 made possible by the transition to modern technology.
Training	CSAC is in the process of updating our e-learning capabilities for high school counselors, administrators, financial aid administrators, and students. Using one of the leading eLearning authoring tools and best practices in eLearning design, this platform will transform projects into a responsive and rapid eLearning alternative for internal and external stakeholders. Some of the key features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On demand learning• Converts existing training materials into eLearning courses• Creates a new look and feel to the training modules• Offers interactive features for your training modules

GDSM Key Benefits

The Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project provides an easily accessible, one-stop shop for applying and managing the grant application and funding process. Through the GDSM Project, CSAC is completing development of a system that:

- ◆ Process Improvements
- ◆ Reduction of manual effort
- ◆ Increased staff productivity and efficiency
- ◆ More efficient allocation of grant funds
- ◆ Improved internal and external satisfaction

Project Timeline



Contact Us

Please direct questions and inquiries to:
California Student Aid Commission

Terry L. Artica
Institutional Support Unit

Email: terry.artica@csac.ca.gov