



OPERATIONS MEMO

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

April 18, 2024

GOM 2024-14

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **2024-25 Family Size and Total Income – General Guidelines**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) communicates important updates for the calculation of Family Size and Total Income for the 2024-25 academic year as a result of the Better FAFSA/Better CADAA changes.

In accordance with the guidance provided by Federal Student Aid (FSA) on the [Access and Use of Federal Tax Information \(FTI\)](#), the Commission is no longer permitted to display any FTI data within WebGrants. All FTI fields, including family size, will be removed from the user interface.

Family Size Calculation

The Commission will continue to follow federal methodology to calculate family size, as outlined in Appendix C of the [2024-25 Student Aid Index \(SAI\) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide](#).

The family size will be set to the first value from the following list that exists on the student's ISIR:

1. Updated family size
2. Assumed family size
3. Exemption Calculation: see Appendix C of the 2024-25 Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide

In the scenario where no values exist for any of the fields above, the Commission will determine an assumed family size based on the minimum value from dependency status, marital status, and whether the student has dependents or not.

Please refer to the table below, for a breakdown of the assumed family size for dependent and independent students.

Cal Grant Assumed Family Size

Dependency Status	Student/Parent Marital Status	Student has dependents?	Cal Grant Assumed Family Size
Dependent	Married Remarried Living Together	No	3
Dependent	Never Married Widowed Divorced Separated	No	2
Independent	Married Remarried	No	2
Independent	Married Remarried	Yes	3
Independent	Single Divorced Separated Widowed	No	1
Independent	Single Divorced Separated Widowed	Yes	2

Total Income Calculation

The Cal Grant total income amounts will be based on the Student Total Income (ISIR Field #944 / Cal ISIR Field #582) for independent students, or the Parent Total Income (ISIR Field #945 / Cal ISIR Field #583) for dependent students. If the total income field has a null value, the Commission will mirror FSA methodology to calculate the Total Income using the Student (and Spouse) / Parent Income Additions and Offsets as outlined in the [2024-25 Student Aid Index \(SAI\) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide](#) pages 6 and 8.

- In the scenario where an ISIR contains both manually entered values and FTI values for the same item, the Commission will use the manually entered values to calculate award eligibility.

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