



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

January 18, 2019

GSA 2019-05

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

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

SUBJECT: **Application for the Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on the nominations for three committee members for the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Advisory Committee.

As previously announced in [GSA 2018-42](#), the Commission is seeking nominations for three committee members for the Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee. The appointments include one college campus financial aid officer and two postsecondary students.

The Cal-SOAP is instrumental in improving the flow of information about postsecondary education and financial aid while raising the achievement levels of low-income, elementary and secondary school students or students from geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or college participation rates, and who are first in their families to attend college.

The Commission anticipates the Advisory Committee will meet two to three times per year and will review and provide recommendations on Cal-SOAP policies and activities. The Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee will support the Commission's mission: *"Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."*

Pursuant to Education Code Section 69562, *"The Student Aid Commission shall establish a 12-member project grant advisory committee to advise project directors and the commission on the development and operation of the projects..."* Section (e) requires the Commission to appoint two postsecondary students and Section (f) requires the Commission to appoint two college campus financial aid officers. The Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee is considered a formal advisory body to the Commission. As such, the meetings are to adhere to the Commission's Uniform Policies for Advisory Bodies and are subject to the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act.

When considering applying for this position, please keep the following in mind:

Commitment: Members must attend and contribute to the meetings. This will allow the Commission to receive comprehensive and competent advice. The Committee is expected to meet two to three times annually. Each Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee meeting will require at least seven Committee members to establish a quorum.

Background/Qualifications: The college campus financial aid officer must possess experience or knowledge of student financial aid and outreach program policy matters is useful. The two postsecondary students must have some familiarity with components relating to college financial assistance and the financial aid process.

Term: The term length for the Commission's representative member is two years.

Please submit your application by **February 8, 2019** to the address below and include:

- Your name,
- The segment in which you work,
- Your campus' address, and
- A brief biography or resume.

California Student Aid Commission
Attn: Steve Caldwell
P.O. Box 419026
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

Or email your application to Steve Caldwell at steve.caldwell@csac.ca.gov.

Once the application period is complete, applicant information will be forwarded to the California Student Aid Commissioners. The Commissioners will name the Commission's representative at the March 21st and 22nd, 2019 Commission meeting.

Selected applicants will be notified as soon as the next Committee meeting is scheduled. A formal invitation with additional information will be issued to the nominee appointed by the Commission.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director, Customer Relations Branch, at (916) 464-3175 or by email at steve.caldwell@csac.ca.gov.

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!