



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

April 21, 2021

GSA 2021-15

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
Chafee Coordinators

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

SUBJECT: **2020-21 and 2021-22 Supplemental Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Funding**

Foster Youth Stimulus Funds

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the following augmentations from the federal COVID relief package (HR 133, P.L. 116-260).

The federal COVID relief package that passed in December 2020 included \$400 million in additional funding for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee) with a minimum required allocation to the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program of \$50 million.

California is receiving the following amounts from the \$400 million:

- o \$41,280,026 for the Chafee program to support California foster youth and;
- o \$6,000,004 for the Chafee Grant ETV program.

The Commission administers the Chafee ETV program on behalf of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Commission staff is working with CDSS to provide the additional \$6,000,004 in Chafee Grant funds that will be available as soon as the funds are released which is anticipated to be in the coming weeks.

These funds will be used to award students for which the Commission has a full application package including: 1) a CDSS Foster Youth Record, 1) a Chafee application and 3) a current Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). These supplemental federal funds will be available through September 30, 2022.

The Commission realizes that these funds are coming late in the academic year. It is important for campus financial aid offices to certify students' eligibility and request payments as soon as possible. As a reminder, the following guidelines and resources are available:

- **Work the Chafee Payment Roster** – the Commission is asking that Financial Aid Officers review the Chafee Payment Roster on [WebGrants](#) to certify and request payments for all awarded students. Please remember to complete all changes on the roster including payments requests prior to saving the transaction, as our system allows for one transaction for each student per week.

- **Recycling Awards Timeline** – to maximize the number of students who are awarded, the Commission will recycle awards **21 days** from the date of offer. Students who lose their award due to the recycle process can be reconsidered if the Financial Aid Officer updates their enrollment status on the payment roster.
- **Non-Disbursed Chafee Checks** – All non-disbursed checks **must** be returned to the Commission within **30 business days** of receipt. This will allow the Commission to maximize the funds. Complete the form attached to the check and do not void the check. Return both to:

California Student Aid Commission

PO BOX 419027

Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9027

- **Payment Request Page / Quick User Guide** – Under the section 'Reminders/Resources', there is a link to download a copy of our new *Quick User Guide*, which provides details on how to manage your Payment Roster.

Need to contact us?

- The Commission's Chafee team is available if you need assistance or have questions:
 - Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
 - E-mail: chafee@csac.ca.gov

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!