



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

March 16, 2022

GSA 2022-16

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: **Golden State Education and Training Grant Program**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on the new Golden State Education and Training Grant Program (GSETGP) that was established in the 2021-22 state budget. This new program offers one-time grants to eligible California resident workers who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are enrolling in public education or training programs to learn new skills and get back into the workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused millions of Californians to lose their jobs and many have been unable to find living wage employment since. The Governor and the Legislature opted to use \$472.5 million in one-time American Rescue Plan Act funds and \$27.5 million in one-time General Fund to provide grants to help these individuals reskill or upskill and transition back into the workforce.

Student Eligibility

To be eligible for a GSETGP grant, the applicant must meet the income and asset criteria of the Cal Grant A award (pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 69432.7) and must have been:

- Displaced from employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Unable to obtain employment that provides an average monthly wage that is equal to or greater than the average monthly wage received from their employment prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Not enrolled in a training program, college, or university at the time they were displaced from employment

Applicants will complete an application on the CSAC website and be asked to self-certify their job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their inability since to find work. Individuals must be first time enrollees **after** the time they were displaced from employment. Individuals may be enrolled in either credit-bearing or non-credit instruction. There is no minimum unit or satisfactory academic progress requirements. Undocumented students are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Phased Implementation

CSAC is implementing this grant program in phases. One-time grants of \$2,500 will first be made available to student parents who can demonstrate financial need by

either receiving CalWORKs aid for themselves and/or their child(ren), or through the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA). These students will be invited to complete [a quick-start application](#) which will be available on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 4:00pm.

Undocumented students with a California Dream Act ID will be able to apply using the online application. Undocumented students without a California Dream Act ID should reach out to CSAC at GSETGP@csac.ca.gov to receive a short, supplemental application form to verify income and other eligibility criteria.

Future phases of implementation will include students enrolled in K-12 adult education and other types of vocational training. Full implementation, which will reach a much broader group of individuals, is not planned until late 2022. Future Special Alerts will be released as more information becomes available.

GSETGP Support from Institutions

Once a student has submitted their application, Commission staff will coordinate with the respective campuses to ensure that an applicant is on the GSETGP roster. After the student's enrollment in a credit or non-credit program is confirmed, Commission staff will send the grant funding to financial aid offices and inform the student of the award. Students will be directed to their campus financial aid office for next steps.

Another Special Alert will be released with more details on the GSETGP online roster, the disbursement process and reporting requirements.

Need to contact us?

- E-mail: GSETGP@csac.ca.gov

Enclosure: Golden State Education and Training Grant Program FAQs

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!