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SPOTLIGHT BRIEF BY CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION PROVIDES DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOUSING INSECURITY DATA FROM COLLEGE STUDENT SURVEY

Sacramento, CA (Thurs., Dec 5, 2019) – The [California Student Aid Commission](http://www.csac.ca.gov) (CSAC) released the first of several [spotlight briefs](#) on housing insecurity among college students based on its recent [Student Expense and Resource Survey \(SEARS\)](#). The first brief focuses specifically on a major obstacle for student success: housing.

This brief examines responses from students by segments, race and ethnicity, various region of the states, students who live on and off-campus and students with dependents.

A shocking 35 percent of the students surveyed experienced one or more conditions of housing insecurity in the past thirty days – emphasizing the need to address shortfalls in our state’s financial aid system that leaves too many students struggling to stay afloat. Many students experiencing housing insecurity reported unstable living conditions, which included the inability to pay rent or utilities, or the need to move frequently.

The housing brief found that while Hispanic/Latino students make up the largest percentage of homeless students, black students are disproportionately affected by homelessness. In addition, Latinos students disproportionately reported living with their parents where their white counterparts disproportionately live on campus. Students who live on campus report spending on average \$1,235 per month and students who live off-campus spend \$1,244.

“It was important for the CSAC team to prioritize housing insecurity for our first brief, as it is an overwhelming issue that students are dealing with,” said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the Commission “We are committed to continue looking closely at the SEARS data to help us better understand the financial challenges students face during college and the steps we must take as a state to ensure they are set up for success.”

CSAC plans to release several spotlight briefs in the coming weeks to assess further and disaggregate the initial insights data to better understand the financial challenges students face during college.

CSAC is on a mission to redesign the current financial aid system to serve the needs of the students of today. CSAC urges lawmakers, researchers and advocates to use the data to inform their work as it relates to student aid.

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The California Student Aid Commission administers the state's \$2.8 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle-Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing higher education.