



## California Community College (CCC) Undocumented Students Resource Snapshot

### OVERVIEW

The California Community Colleges represent 2.1 million college students at 116 colleges in rural, urban and suburban communities throughout the state. We are committed to supporting all students in their pursuit of a higher education, regardless of their immigration status. California is home to an estimated 2.5 million undocumented immigrants, which is 20% of the nation's undocumented immigrant population.

There is no doubt that college students across the nation are facing deep financial challenges triggered by an unprecedented health and economic crisis. Undocumented students; however, face even steeper challenges, as they are ineligible for federal financial aid and anxiety looms large over the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and potential immigration reform. The California Community Colleges serve approximately 70,000 undocumented students – a higher population of undocumented student than the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) system combined. Undocumented students are poised to make significant contributions that will help our nation recover from this economic crisis. Supporting undocumented students is not only a moral imperative but also an economic investment.

Absent federal financial support for undocumented students, our state leaders must continue paving the way by protecting enacted policies that provide undocumented students with resources to help them stay enrolled in college and meet their educational goals.

### RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

#### FINANCIAL AID AND TUITION SUPPORTS

##### AB 540

The California Nonresident Tuition Exemption (commonly known as AB 540) allows undocumented students who meet eligibility criteria to pay resident or in-state tuition at California public colleges and universities. Previously, eligible students were only those who attended a California high school and completed a high school education; however, recent policy changes through SB 68 expand on this eligibility to allow students to count years spent at a California Community College and Adult School towards in-state tuition eligibility. This gives all students educated in California the opportunity to qualify for the benefits afforded by AB 540. For more information, visit the [California Student Aid Commission](#).

## California College Promise Grant

Formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver, the [California College Promise Grant](#) is administered by the CCC Chancellor's Office and waives the enrollment fee of \$46 per unit for eligible California residents and AB 540 undocumented students. A student must plan to enroll at a California community college, demonstrate financial need, and be exempt from non-resident tuition under AB 540 criteria. The CCPG is open to all students to apply to but eligible students must submit a FAFSA or in the case of undocumented students, a California DREAM Act Application.

## California Community College Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG)

The SSCG grant award, administered by the Chancellor's Office, provides additional financial aid to resident community college students and AB 540 students who meet the program requirements. The aid helps offset educational and living costs, encourages full time attendance, and successful on-time completion. The SSCG program provides a maximum award of \$4,000 annually, two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per semester or the quarterly equivalent. Student must enroll and attend 15 units per term. For more information, see the [SSCG Program](#).

## California DREAM Act

While AB 540 waives fees and tuition, it does not provide financial aid to offset the costs of text books, transportation, and living expenses. The creation of the California DREAM Act allows AB 540 students to access state and institutional aid which. To be considered for a Cal Grant, Chafee Grant (for foster youth), and other forms of institutional aid, AB 540 students must submit a California DREAM Act Application (CADAA) instead of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is highly encouraged that the [California DREAM Act Application](#) be submitted before applying to college. For more information, see the [California Dream Act FAQ's for students and parents](#).

## DREAM RESOURCE CENTERS & UNDOCU LIAISON

Signed into law in 2019, AB 1645 (Rubio) requires California Community Colleges and California State University, and request the University of California, to designate a Dreamer Resource Liaison on each campus. Today, Undocumented Student Resource Centers and Designated Liaisons (UndocuLiaisons) are located on California Community College campuses to provide undocumented students with resources and support to help them achieve their educational goals. These resources provide a safe community for UndocuScholars and a judgement free place that makes it easier for students to focus on school and know that they have support. To find a list of all campus UndocuLiaisons, use the California Community Colleges [find a college tool](#).

## IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Undocumented students and families are facing increasingly complex legal concerns due to the rapidly changing immigration and economic policies and yet, there are limited options for immigrant families to access low cost or no cost legal services. Thanks to a \$10

million 2018-2019 budget investment by the California Legislature, we launched the California Community Colleges Immigration Legal Services Program to provide free immigration legal services to students, faculty and staff. An additional \$10 million allocation in the 2020-2021 budget allowed the program to expand its services.

The California Community Colleges have established formal partnerships with legal services providers across the state, creating legal services hubs across 65 college campuses. Students, faculty and staff can access free legal services at any one of the participating colleges. Remote services may be expanded to additional campuses based on the capacity of each legal services provider. Due to COVID-19, immigration services are currently offered remotely through video conferencing, email and phone. For more information and learn how to make an appointment, please visit the [California Community Colleges Immigration Legal Services Program](#).