

CSAC



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION



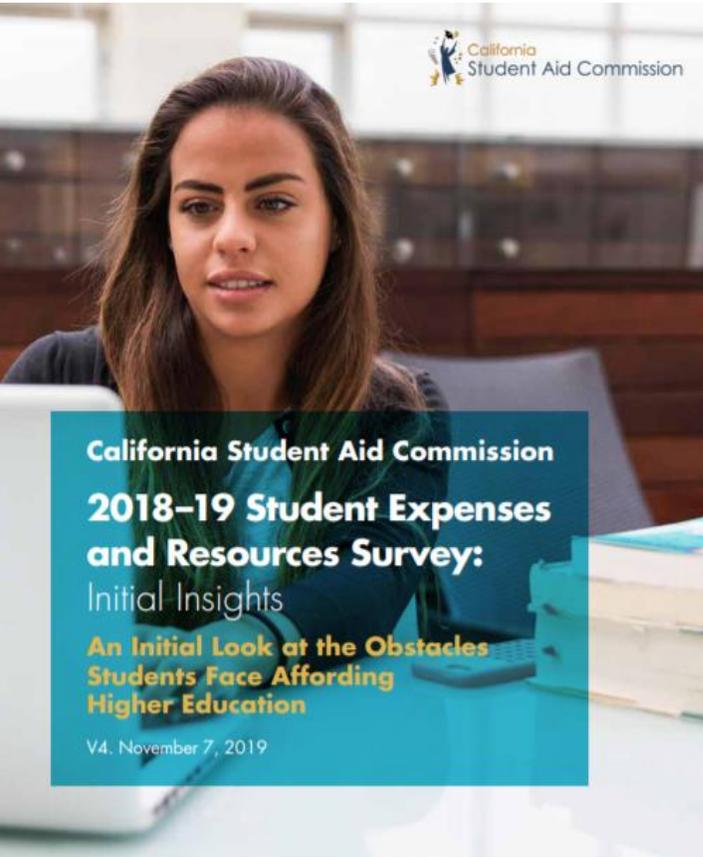
Cal Grant reform & AB 1746

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California offers the most generous state financial aid in the country, and yet...



More than 3 of 10 students report being food insecure

More than 3 of 10 students report being housing insecure

Percent of students with increased basic needs costs due to COVID-19

Increased monthly housing expenses

Increased weekly food expenses





Historic expansion of Cal Grant for community college students, but more work to be done..

- 2021 Budget Act removed barriers for CCC students based on their age and when they graduated high school
- New CCC Cal Grant will also allow recipients to take their grants with them to a UC or CSU when transferring



Historic expansion of Cal Grant for community college students, but more work to be done

- In November, **over 130,000 CCC students** were offered a Cal Grant award. Another **40,000** were offered awards in January
- CCC financial aid offices now confirming student enrollment and eligibility to pay out these awards



Remaining issues to address to promote Cal Grant equity for CCC students

- Remaining barriers to student eligibility for Cal Grants based on GPA and age when transferring
- Streamlining of the current Cal Grant program – now more inclusive, but also more complex
- Addressing basic needs and non-tuition expenses

Cal Grant 2

All CCC students with incomes qualifying for a Pell Grant guaranteed eligibility for a stipend (\$1,648), tied to the California Consumer Price Index to maintain its purchasing power over time

- No GPA verification required
- Fully eliminate age requirements for transfer students
- Application deadline of September 2

Key impacts for equity in Cal Grant access

Profile of the CCC students made eligible for a Cal Grant through establishing the Equity Framework:

- Low-income (average income = \$35,804)
- Older (average age = 26.6)
- Student-parents (32.6%)
- First-generation college goers (64.1%)



Key impacts for equity in Cal Grant access

By establishing the Cal Grant 2, California could serve over **109,000 additional CCC students**

- 73,000 more Latino students
- 38,000 more student parents
- 9,400 more Black students



Key Outcomes of Adopting the Cal Grant Equity Framework as outlined in AB 1746

- ✓ **Streamlines Cal Grants** to be more easily understood by students and families or communicated by educators
- ✓ **Aligns eligibility** of state-based aid with federal policy
- ✓ **Eliminates eligibility barriers** for state aid that are not connected to financial need
- ✓ **Targets state resources** on the most financially vulnerable students



Key Outcomes of Adopting the Cal Grant Equity Framework as outlined in AB 1746

- ✓ Opportunity to serve more than **150,000 additional students** than under the current program (109,000 at CCC)
- ✓ Improved access for **student-parents, adult learners, & CA Dream Act Application filers**
 - Nearly 45,000 more eligible student-parents (85% at CCC)
 - Over 3,000 more CA Dream Act filers (79% at CCC)
- ✓ More **inclusive Cal Grant programs** –more African-American and Latinx students eligible to receive an award

Next Steps

- AB 1746 (Medina, McCarty, & Leyva) to be considered by Asm. Higher Education Committee on **April 19**
- Conversations in the **State Budget process through June 15** on investments to adopt the Cal Grant Equity Framework and expand access to aid

Simplifying and expanding the Cal Grant will help students today and our state tomorrow.

None of us can afford to wait.