



TO: Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Financial Aid Officers

FROM: Gina Browne, Dean, Educational Services and Support

RE: Updates to the Student Financial Aid Programs for 2022-23

Overview

This guidance memo provides information, resources, and guidance for changes to the student financial aid programs administered by the Chancellor's Office and the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and other updates.

I. Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG)

The 2022-23 budget includes \$412,602,000 to award Student Success Completion Grants to eligible students. This amount represents a \$250M increase from last year to accommodate an expected increase in Cal Grant B recipients as a result of the Cal Grant Community College Entitlement Award that became effective 2021-22 and for the increase in SSCG award amounts.

[California Education Code 88931](#) has been updated to reflect that Cal Grant recipients enrolled in 12-14.9 units can receive \$1,298 per semester and those who enroll in 15 or more units are eligible for \$4,000 per semester (prorated for quarter terms). If funding is available after making awards to students in the primary terms, colleges should reevaluate all Cal Grant recipients to grant additional SSCG awards to students who have taken a sufficient number of units during the winter intersession or summer term to bring their total number of academic units to 24 units or more for the academic year.

II. California College Promise

The budget provides \$25 million additional ongoing funds for a total of \$91.2 million to make returning students eligible for the Promise fee waiver (rather than restricting it to first-time students), as long as they have not previously earned a postsecondary degree or certificate.

Also included is the requirement that community college districts must maximize available resources to address student basic needs, at minimum, establishing a partnership with county human services agencies, which can be done through the college's Basic Needs Center.

While Promise funds may be used to address affordability by providing student fee waivers, colleges have broad flexibility when developing and revising their Promise Programs. To address affordability issues, Promise funds may be used to provide fee waivers or to provide direct aid in the form of grants to students. Other suggested examples include: support for local education agencies, staffing and increased capacity for academic and support services that provide intervention and help students remain enrolled and complete their goals.

To prepare for the legislative report that is due July 1, 2024, a comprehensive report on the use of Promise funds will be required. Reporting requirements are being developed and more information will be provided when it becomes available.

III. Emergency Financial Aid

There are two sources of emergency financial aid including the 2022-23 budget. While each source has its own student eligibility and other requirements, students should be made aware of the availability of emergency financial aid. Additional guidance will be included in the September issue of the [2022-23 Compendium of Allocations and Resources](#).

III(a). State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Emergency Financial Assistance Grants

- \$150,000,000
- Open to credit and non-credit students
- No unit minimum
- Required quarterly reporting
- MIS Code

III(b). Emergency Financial Aid - Supplemental

- \$20,000,000
- Open to students exempt from paying nonresident tuition per section 68130.5
- Students must be enrolled at least half-time
- Students must demonstrate financial need
- Districts and colleges may use a portion of these funds to reimburse themselves if they had to transfer funds for grants provided to students who are exempt from nonresident tuition as a result of memo FS 22-02 changes from the 2021 Early Action Emergency Financial Assistance Grants. If a prior year adjustment is needed, please discuss the transaction with your audit team to determine the appropriate adjusting entry.

IV. CalKIDS

The California Kids Investment and Development Savings (CalKIDS) program administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, similar to a 529 college savings plan, that helps children save for college or career training after high school. California public school students identified as low-income, enrolled in 1st through 12th grades during the 2021-2022 academic year may receive up to \$1,500 deposit in a CalKIDS account. CalKIDS savings can be used for qualified higher

education expenses like tuition, books, computer equipment, supplies, and more. You can learn more about CalKIDS at calkids.org.

V. CSAC Updates

There are a number of updates to CSAC programs. Additional information and training opportunities for the following programs can be found at csac.ca.gov.

V(a). Golden State education and Training Grant Program

The [Golden State Education and Training Grant](#) program offers one-time grants of \$2,500 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. This grant program is not considered to be estimated financial assistance (EFA) and should not impact eligibility for need-based aid. The 2022-23 application has expanded to allow students enrolled in certificate programs, adult education and other noncredit programs to apply. Additional information can be found in the [CSAC Special Alert 2022-61](#).

V(b). Dreamer Service Incentive Grant (DSIG)

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the opening of the 2022-23 applications for the [California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program](#) (DSIG). The 2022-23 state budget made important amendments to the DSIG program as outlined below including an increased annual award from \$3,000 to \$4,500, expanded eligibility to students who are Cal Grant A recipients, and set the minimum award to \$450. Additional information can be found in the [CSAC Special Alert 2022-46](#).

V(c). Middle Class Scholarship

Effective 22-23, California community college students may be eligible for the [Middle Class Scholarship](#). Previously, eligibility was based on the amount of systemwide tuition and fees however commencing with the 2022-23 academic year, eligibility is based on the student cost of attendance or COA. While this will benefit only students enrolled in BA programs at a community college, it represents significant support for our BA seeking students. Additional information will be shared with the colleges that offer baccalaureate degree programs.

VI. New MIS Codes

Please use the following MIS codes for reporting student financial aid data elements.

SFRF Emergency Financial Assistance Grants	SF21 - GL
Emergency Financial Aid – Supplemental	TBD
Learner Aligned Employment Program	WL

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September 12, 2022

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please feel free to contact Gina Browne at gbrowne@cccco.edu.