

**CSAC**



CALIFORNIA  
**STUDENT AID**  
COMMISSION



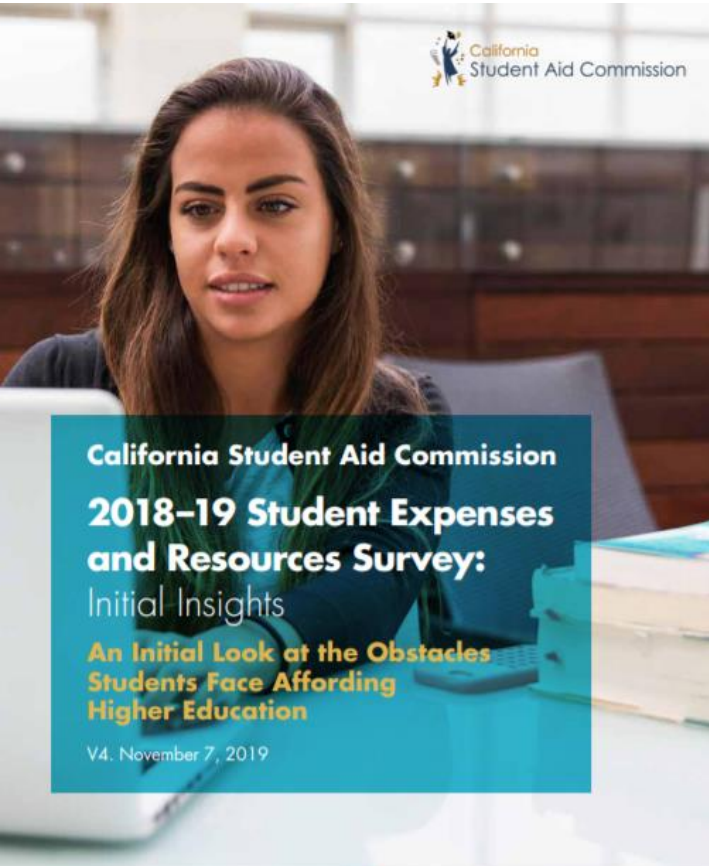
# Cal Grant reform & AB 1746

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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.*