Making College Affordability a Reality for California Students

PACE Annual Conference
February 7, 2020
Sacramento, California

@edpolicyinca

PACE
Policy Analysis for California Education

#2020PACE
Agenda

- 1:15-2:10: Panelist presentations
- 2:10-2:25: Panelist Q&A
- 2:25-2:40: Table conversations
- 2:40-2:45: Table report out
Panelists

Tammeil Gilkerson, President of Laney College

Johanna Lacoe, Research Director, California Policy Lab

Patrick Perry, Division Chief of Policy, Research & Data, California Student Aid Commission

Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, Associate Dean for Equity & Inclusion and Professor of Education, UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies Faculty Director, PACE
Increasing the Take-Up of the Cal Grant

February 7, 2020

Johanna Lacoe
Research Director
Process for receiving a Cal Grant

1. Students submit FAFSA or CADAA by March deadline
2. High schools verify student GPAs
3. CSAC sends award notification letters to eligible students
4. Students confirm their chosen schools on the WebGrants 4 Students site
5. Schools confirm student enrollment and eligibility
6. Cal Grant payments are issued directly to schools
Cal Grants I: Randomization was conducted at the school level

Control
# of schools: 806
# of students: ~46K

Treatment 1
simplified letter
# of schools: 795
# of students: ~47K

Treatment 2:
simplified letter + belonging language
# of schools: 797
# of students: ~45K
Cal Grants I study timeline

**November 2017**
CSAC begins mailing letters to students

**June 2018**
Last letters are mailed

**October 2017**
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens to students

**March 2018**
FAFSA deadline; letters continue to go out after this date

**September 2018**
Students enroll for the fall semester at their chosen institutions

**February 2020**
Expecting final data on enrollment for 2018-2019
Congratulations!

You have been awarded a preliminary Cal Grant award for the 2018-19 academic year!

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., the Legislature and the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) are investing in you because of your academic achievements and determination. Based on the information you provided to CSAC on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) as well as your GPA, you have been determined to be preliminarily eligible for a Cal Grant.

Cal Grant award amounts vary by the type of college you choose to attend and enrollment status. These are the current Cal Grant maximum amounts you could receive if you enroll at an eligible California campus in the following segments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Segment</th>
<th>Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Community College (CCC)</td>
<td>$1,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University (CSU)</td>
<td>$4,742*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California (UC)</td>
<td>$12,630*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Non-Profit or WASC-accredited colleges</td>
<td>$9,084*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-WASC-accredited For-Profit Colleges</td>
<td>$4,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cal Grant B students may also receive a $1,672 access award in addition to the amount listed above.

In addition to a Cal Grant you are potentially eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, for approximately $5,920. These grants, and any other financial aid that you might receive, will help you cover the costs of attending college, which include tuition and fees, food and housing, and books and supplies.

The Cal Grant and Pell Grant do not require repayment and is only one part of your financial aid package. After you are admitted, the campus financial aid office will provide a full financial aid award notice. In addition to the Cal Grant and Pell Grant, you may also be eligible for one or more of the following:

- Institutional grants or scholarships offered at public and private colleges and universities;
- California College Promise Grant;
- Work-Study Program or Federal Student Loans;
- Other types of financial aid offered at your campus of attendance, such as private scholarships and student loans.

This is an initial Cal Grant award notification only. You must still apply for admission to the campus you plan to attend. Your college makes the final eligibility determination for Cal Grant prior to disbursing your award. For questions about final eligibility determination and disbursement dates, reach out to the financial aid office at your chosen campus.

Make California and your families proud by continuing and completing your education. Claim your Cal Grant Award by logging onto WebGrants for Students at www.csac.ca.gov/mygrantinfo

See enclosed flyer for more information

Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director
Dear [name],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a Cal Grant scholarship. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college for all four years if you remain eligible. It does not need to be repaid.

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/mvcalgrantinfo](http://www.csac.ca.gov/mvcalgrantinfo) and take the first step to claim your scholarship!

Grant ID number: [redacted]
CSAC ID number: [redacted]

As you research different college options, remember that the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn’t determine which college you choose to attend. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Segment</th>
<th>Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>$9,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-WASC accredited For-Profit Colleges:</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition you may be eligible for a living stipend of up to $1,672 per year, and for other grants, such as an estimated $1,170 in a Federal Pell Grant.

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

Lupita Cortez Acalá
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant Information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.
Dear [Name],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a Cal Grant scholarship. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college for all four years if you remain eligible. It does not need to be repaid.

You have shown that you’re the kind of person who belongs in college. We’ve been working hard to help you get there!

Go to www.csac.ca.gov/calgrantinfo and take the first step to claim your scholarship!

Grant ID number: [Redacted]
CSAC ID number: [Redacted]

As you research different college options, remember that the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn’t determine which college you choose to attend. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

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Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

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Effect on account creation

Creation of a WebGrants Account

- Control: 62%
- Simplified: 67%
- Simplified + Belonging: 69%
Cal Grants II: 4 arms

Control
simplified + belonging letter from Cal Grants I
# of schools: 639
# of students: ~33K

Treatment 1
removing all belonging language
# of schools: 630
# of students: ~28K

Treatment 2
including language framing college as a social norm instead
# of schools: 633
# of students: ~31K

Treatment 3
adding to the control a table providing personalized net price estimates for public institutions listed on a student’s FAFSA
# of schools: 632
# of students: ~31K
### Cal Grants II study timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>CSAC begins mailing letters to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens to students</td>
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<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Students enroll for the fall semester at their chosen institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Expecting data on fall 2019 enrollment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear [Student],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a Cal Grant. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

You have shown that you’re the kind of person who belongs in college. We’ve been working hard to help you get there!

Go to www.csac.ca.gov/2019grant and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [Redacted]

As you research different college options, remember that the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn’t determine which college you choose to attend. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Segment</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$9,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private For-Profit College or University:</td>
<td>$4,000 - $8,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You are also eligible for other grants, such as an estimated $[Redacted] in a Federal Pell Grant. You can learn more about your financial aid options at www.csac.ca.gov/calig.

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 19 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.
Dear [Name],

Congratulations! You have been preliminarily selected to receive a Cal Grant. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

Go to www.csac.ca.gov/2019calgrant and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [Redacted]

As you research different college options, remember that the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn’t determine which college you choose to attend. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

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<th>Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$4,000 - $8,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You are also eligible for other grants, such as an estimated $[Redacted] in a Federal Pell Grant. You can learn more about your financial aid options at www.csac.ca.gov/netprice.

Good luck with your applications!

Sincerely,

Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission
Dear [Name]

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a Cal Grant. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

Join thousands of high school seniors who have claimed their Cal Grant and are now college graduates!

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/2019award](http://www.csac.ca.gov/2019award) and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [Redacted]

As you research different college options, remember that the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn’t determine which college you choose to attend. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private For-Profit College or University:</td>
<td>$4,000 - $8,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You are also eligible for other grants, such as an estimated $[Redacted] in a Federal Pell Grant. You can learn more about your financial aid options at [www.csac.ca.gov/cost](http://www.csac.ca.gov/cost).

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

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Dear [Name],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a Cal Grant. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

You have shown that you’re the kind of person who belongs in college. We’ve been working hard to help you get there!

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/2019mygrant](http://www.csac.ca.gov/2019mygrant) and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [Redacted]

As you research different college options, remember that the published cost of college is not necessarily the cost for you, because of financial aid.

Based on the information you listed on your FAFSA, we estimate that you could be eligible for as much as $27,731 in financial aid that would reduce your costs at the colleges you listed and does not need to be paid back. The back of this letter has estimates of the aid you would receive at these schools if you attend full time. You can learn more about your financial aid options at [www.csac.ca.gov/price](http://www.csac.ca.gov/price).

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

*Lupita Cortez Alcald*
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission
ESTIMATED 2019-20 COLLEGE COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID FOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Living situation</th>
<th>Estimated tuition, fees, housing, and other costs</th>
<th>Estimated grant aid you will receive</th>
<th>Estimated cost for you</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice University</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark College</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Of California-Santa Cruz</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>$36,396</td>
<td>$23,496</td>
<td>$12,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Of California-Santa Barbara</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>$36,180</td>
<td>$25,680</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Of California (UCLA)</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>$33,604</td>
<td>$24,804</td>
<td>$8,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Of California-Davis</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>$35,731</td>
<td>$27,731</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal State-Long Beach</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>$23,610</td>
<td>$12,957</td>
<td>$10,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Of California-San Diego</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>$31,095</td>
<td>$21,595</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimates above were created using the net price calculators on the institutions’ websites. Final aid determinations are made by institutions. You can expect details of your full financial aid package from your institution once you have been admitted.

Grant aid estimates include aid from multiple sources, including the Cal Grant and other state, federal, and institutional aid programs. Grant aid does not need to be paid back. Loans or work study may also be available to help you cover costs.

Visit [www.csac.ca.gov/price](http://www.csac.ca.gov/price) for information about institutions where estimates are not available.
Effect on account creation

Creation of a WebGrants Account
As of April 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Simplified</th>
<th>Social Norm</th>
<th>Net Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions & next steps

• Cal Grants I: The simplified letters increased account creation

• Cal Grant II: The net price and social norm letters increased account creation relative to the simplified letters, but not the simplified + belonging letters
  • The effect of letters in the second experiment on account creation was much smaller, possibly because the baseline letters were very similar to the treatment letters

• Next steps: estimate the effect of the letters on college enrollment
Thank you!

Questions: Johanna Lacoe, johanna.lacoe@berkeley.edu
Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS)

Patrick Perry
Director of Policy, Research, and Data

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

https://www.csac.ca.gov/sears
Background

CSAC creates Student Expense Budget (SEB)
• From early 1970s through 2006-07, SEB was informed by SEARS data
• Survey was administered every 3 years (on paper)
• Used by institutions for public disclosure of cost of attendance

Survey halted after 2006-07 due to budget cuts
• Since then, SEB adjusted each year using the California Consumer Price Index (CPI)
• CSAC relaunched SEARS in 2018 (web-based)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLOWANCE</th>
<th>WITH PARENTS</th>
<th>ON CAMPUS HOUSING</th>
<th>OFF CAMPUS HOUSING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUITION AND FEES¹</td>
<td>ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOKS AND SUPPLIES²</td>
<td>$1,080 PER ACADEMIC YEAR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD³</td>
<td>$ 976 / MO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 8,780 / YR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING¹</td>
<td>INCLUDED IN ABOVE</td>
<td>$ 1,240 / MO</td>
<td>$ 11,164 / YR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 104 / MO</td>
<td>$ 36 / MO</td>
<td>$ 95 / MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 938 / YR</td>
<td>$ 324 / YR</td>
<td>$ 858 / YR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION⁵</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 358 / MO</td>
<td>$ 290 / MO</td>
<td>$ 420 / MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 3,225 / YR</td>
<td>$ 2,609 / YR</td>
<td>$ 3,784 / YR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL / MISC⁶</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASONABLE EXPENSES WITH ADEQUATE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE STUDENT,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DEPENDING UPON AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD / DEPENDENT CARE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOAN FEES</td>
<td>FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS, ACTUAL OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AVERAGE LOAN ORIGINATION AND INSURANCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL, Excluding Allowances based</td>
<td>$ 1,558 / MO</td>
<td>$ 446 / MO</td>
<td>$ 2,478 / MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on actual institutional charges</td>
<td>$ 14,023 / YR</td>
<td>$ 4,013 / YR</td>
<td>$ 22,302 / YR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEARS 2018-19

- Generous grant from College Futures Foundation to revive and revise SEARS
- Worked with Mathematica on survey design, conversion to web, marketing strategy, data collection and analysis, focus groups, and piloting
- Survey given and data collected between Fall 2018-Spring 2019
- 57 question, branched survey instrument
Survey Topics

- Housing expenses
- Transportation expenses
- Miscellaneous expenses
- Expenses for books and supplies
- Food expenses and food assistance
- Financial resources
- Uptake of government assistance programs

- By student background/demographics
- By higher ed segment, regional geography
### Response Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Participating Institutions</th>
<th>Students Sampled</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AICCU</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21,532</td>
<td>3,154</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>81,157</td>
<td>6,608</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>33,949</td>
<td>4,265</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,430</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12,385</td>
<td>1,255</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>110</strong></td>
<td><strong>150,453</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,419</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
Priorities for Initial Analysis

How do students’ reported expenses and perception of ability to meet their expenses vary for key subgroups?

- Micro-region
- Higher education segment
- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- With and without dependents
- Older and younger students
- Working status
What so far has been the biggest obstacle for you to be successful in college?

- Cost of college
- Balancing school and work responsibilities
- Balancing school and family responsibilities
- Classes are too difficult
- Too little support from college
- Too little support from family
- Other obstacles
- No major obstacles
Students report the cost of attending college and balancing school and work are the biggest obstacles to being successful.

33% cost of college

31% balancing school and work
Students report spending $2,020/month for non-tuition expenses associated with attending college

- Students report their expenses for books and supplies, food, housing, transportation, and personal expenses
- On average, students reported spending $2,020 per month for expenses in those categories

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1 in 3 students have experienced food or housing insecurity within the last 30 days

- 35% Low/very low food security
- 35% Housing insecure

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### Housing

- 75% of students age 21 and under across all segments either live on campus or with their parents.

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Housing Insecurity

“...It's been tough and hard to eat balanced meals and have a stable place to live. I had to couch surf for several weeks and sleep in my car due to lack of money.

Student, East Bay

Housing challenges students encountered within the last 30 days:

21% said they did not pay the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill

18% said there was a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay

10% said they did not pay or underpaid their rent or mortgage

10% said they lived in a house or apartment with more people than were listed on the lease or rental agreement

5% said they moved in with others, even for a little while, because of financial problems

2% said they moved two times or more

1% said they had no consistent place to sleep (e.g. homeless, couch-surfing, living in a car/shelter)

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### Food

#### Segment

- **California Community Colleges**: 3%
- **California State Universities**: 11%
- **Private Career Colleges**: 13%
- **University of California**: 34%
- **Independent colleges/universities**: 41%

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Food Insecurity

"I love school. And I will not eat just to pay for school."
Student, Orange County

"I have not bought books/school supplies to be able to pay rent/food."
Student, Northern Inland

Students’ level of food security was classified based on the number of affirmative responses to a set of 10 questions\(^2\) and students with very low or low food security levels were considered food insecure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secure</th>
<th>Marginal</th>
<th>Low Food Security</th>
<th>Very Low Food Security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, 22% of students reported very low food security, and 13% of students reported low food security, for a total of 35% of students experiencing food insecurity.

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The survey asked about specific challenges students encountered with food within the last 30 days:

56% said they often or sometimes couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals

48% said they often or sometimes worried food would run out

41% said that often or sometimes the food just didn’t last and they didn’t have money to get more

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Of those who responded often or sometimes true to any of the above:

- **65%** said they cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn’t enough money for food.
- **58%** said they ate less than they felt they should because there wasn’t enough money for food.
- **49%** said they were hungry but didn’t eat because there wasn’t enough money for food.

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Among all students surveyed, 87% did not receive any food assistance. Among food insecure students, 82% did not receive any food assistance.

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### Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Micro-region</th>
<th>Macro-region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Coastal</td>
<td>North Far North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Inland</td>
<td>North Far North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Sacramento</td>
<td>North Far North</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>Bay Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Bay</td>
<td>Bay Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Peninsula</td>
<td>Bay Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz/Monterey</td>
<td>Bay Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silicon Valley</td>
<td>Bay Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother Lode</td>
<td>Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central Coast</td>
<td>South Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Los Angeles and Orange County</td>
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<td>Orange County</td>
<td>Los Angeles and Orange County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inland Empire/Desert</td>
<td>Inland Empire/Desert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego/Imperial</td>
<td>San Diego and Imperial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.
Housing Insecurity by Micro-region

- Los Angeles: 31%
- North Bay: 31%
- South Central Coast: 32%
- Northern Inland: 33%
- East Bay: 33%
- Santa Cruz/Monterey: 33%
- San Diego/Imperial: 34%
- Silicon Valley: 35%
- Orange County: 35%
- Northern Coastal: 35%
- Mother Lode: 35%
- Inland Empire/Desert: 37%
- Mid-Peninsula: 38%
- Greater Sacramento: 41%
- Central Valley: 42%

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Low Food Security by Micro-region

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Students with dependents and students who are 25 or older report higher expenses and higher levels of insecurity

• Students with dependents face significantly higher costs compared to those without, $3,103 vs. $1,830 per month

• Students who are 25 and older spend around $2,691 per month compared to $1,734 spent by younger students

• Both older students and those with dependents report more insecurity and more challenges meeting their expenses than their counterparts
Next Steps

• Series of SEARS Research Briefs under development
  • Housing, Food Insecurity, Transportation, First-Generation Students spotlight
  • Regional breakdowns of costs

• Cal Grant Reform Work Group
  • SEARS data will help inform priorities for financial aid reform
  • Cal Grant Reform Workgroup has completed its work and will send recommendation(s) forward to the CSAC, Governor, and Legislature (March-April)
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Contact Us:

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The California College Promise: A Promise to What, for Whom, and Where?

Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, UCLA
Austin Lyke, UCLA

Policy Analysis for California Education
California College Promise: What, Whom, and Where?

- Promise programs have existed since the 1950s but have proliferated in the last decade across the U.S.
- In 2017, California established its own free program called the California College Promise (AB 19) to respond to concerns about **affordability** as well as broader **inequities** that result in lower rates of college access and attainment among the most vulnerable groups of students, including (but not limited to) low-income students, immigrant students, English language learners, students of color, first-generation students, LGBTQ students, returning veterans, and foster youth.
The Promise Landscape in California

What we learned from looking descriptively at some promise programs in CA is that:

- Promise programs in California are not necessarily universal and have tremendous variation in their definition and structure (e.g., goals, design, scope, funding, beneficiaries, etc.).
- Implementation of promise programs varies widely, depending on institutional and regional capacities and resources.
- Extensive eligibility requirements affect who can benefit from various promise programs.
- Virtually no research exists that examines the impact, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity dimensions of California’s numerous promise programs.
What is the California College Promise?

The California College Promise program established through AB 19 is distinct from existing state financial aid sources in that it provides districts/colleges with funds to waive some or all tuition and fees for a significant subset of students (i.e., first-time, full-time students who complete a financial aid application) if the district chooses to use funds for student financial aid.
How are Colleges Implementing AB 19?

• In 2018–19, 105 colleges received AB 19 funds. This number is expected to grow in the next years. Of those colleges, 65 institutions awarded financial aid to students using AB 19 funds.
• Programs are relatively new—56 percent of them have only existed for one or two years.
• Most students benefitting from AB 19 are first-time, full-time students.
• Colleges are using funds in a variety of ways. The top three spending categories include: tuition and/or fees, hiring of staff, and educational costs (most commonly textbook vouchers, transportation assistance, and food vouchers)
• Colleges are combining various streams of funding (e.g., AB 19 with the Student-Centered Funding Formula) to provide comprehensive supports for students.
• Colleges report significant equity concerns, specifically that students benefitting from the program are not the ones who need it most (e.g., low-income students of color).
A Promise to What and for Whom?

Figure 2. Total Award Amounts by Race/Ethnicity

- African American: $1,871,717
- Native American/Alaskan Native: $27421
- Asian: $778,874
- Filipino/a: $610,696
- Latinx: $2,959,654
- Multi-Ethnicity: $1,143,833
- Pacific Islander: $557,092
- White Non-Hispanic: $3,487,545

Award: California College Promise (AB19) Fee Waiver
Other Grant: California College Promise (AB19) Source
Figure 3. Average Awards by Race/Ethnicity

- White Non-Hispanic: 459
- Pacific Islander: 357
- Multi-Ethnicity: 434
- Latinx: 281
- Filipino/a: 421
- Asian: 358
- Native American/Alaskan Native: 342
- African American: 266

Average Award ($)
Where?

- Over 40 percent of the $14 million in financial aid from AB 19 funds allocated during the 2018–19 academic year is concentrated in just four California counties: Sacramento, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and Orange.
Recommendations

• Revise eligibility criteria
• Invest in a public campaign to clarify what is being promised and to whom
• Invest in studies that examine the impact, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity dimensions of the program
Panelist Q&A

Tammeil Gilkerson, President of Laney College

Johanna Lacoe, Research Director, California Policy Lab

Patrick Perry, Division Chief of Policy, Research & Data, California Student Aid Commission

Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, Associate Dean for Equity & Inclusion and Professor of Education, UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies Faculty Director, PACE
Table conversation

• Introductions
  • Your name & role

• Discussion questions
  • What messages need to be sent to students, families, and communities about the current initiatives (at both state and local levels) to address issues of college affordability?
  • How can policy-makers and institutions ensure that programs/financial aid/grants/scholarships will reach vulnerable and marginalized groups of students?
  • How can we strengthen partnerships across regions to support existing efforts to address issues of college affordability?
Group Shareout
Next up...!

- Quick break: coffee, tea, and snacks
- Be back downstairs in the Magnolia Ballroom by **3:00pm** for the closing keynote: *Paul Tough*