



California Student Aid Commission
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Student aid commission, community colleges

call for emergency aid grants to devastated college students

Sacramento, CA (May 6, 2020) – Formal letters submitted by higher education leaders and advocates requested that Governor Newsom utilize state and federal relief funds to provide emergency financial aid to more than 82,000 low-income California college students, including nearly 12,000 undocumented students supported by the California Dream Act.

The official request, made by California Student Aid Commission Executive Director Marlene Garcia and California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley, calls for a one-time increase to the State's Cal Grant B Access Award program to provide emergency financial relief for the lowest-income and desperately struggling college students hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. Garcia and Oakley provided the following statement regarding the request for emergency grants:

"Nearly 12,000 students who are recipients of Cal Grant B financial aid awards desperately need the State's help. The fact that these students are undocumented makes them ineligible for any federal stimulus funding [under the U.S. Department of Education's guidance](#), which only underscores the dire need to provide emergency aid as they pursue a college education." – Marlene Garcia, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission

"It is unimaginable to me that we would not provide relief to tens of thousands of our lowest-income, hardest-working students. Eighty percent of Cal Grant B recipients are community college students, the very people who are among the essential workers on the front lines fighting COVID-19. Fortunately, California can come to their aid by providing some funds to help fill the gaps so they can meet their basic needs, continue their education, and be productive members of the California workforce. We urge the Governor and State Legislature to support this urgent proposal." – Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Signed,

MARLENE L. GARCIA
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
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