



P. O. Box 419026 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026 (916) 464-8043 [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: CSAC MEDIA RELATIONS 916-464-8043**

**Email: [CSACmediarelations@csac.ca.gov](mailto:CSACmediarelations@csac.ca.gov)**

## **Financial Aid Leaders Applaud Governor's Budget**

*Governor proposes significant investment in aid for students with children*

Sacramento, CA (2019) – California Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed budget released today includes nearly \$200 million in additional funding to increase access for California students pursuing a degree or certificate at public institutions of higher education. Last year, the Cal Grant program that is administered by the California Student Aid Commission, provided \$2.1 billion to 370,000 students to cover tuition, fees and costs associated with obtaining a higher education.

The Governor's proposed expansion of the Cal Grant program will offer additional financial aid for college students with dependent children and increase the number of competitive awards that adult students, who did not attend college immediately after high school, may apply to receive. Under Governor Newsom's proposal, Cal Grant recipients with dependent children could receive up to \$6,000 of additional grant aid per year to afford child care and other educational expenses beyond tuition.

"The struggle to afford child care keeps many low-income Californians, especially single parents, from attending and completing a higher education program," noted Lande Ajose, Chair of the Commission. "By investing in additional grant aid for students with dependent children, Governor Newsom has proposed a path out of poverty for tens of thousands of our low-income students and families."

The Cal Grant is among the most generous and progressive financial aid programs in the country. Specifically, Governor Newsom has proposed making Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B recipients eligible for up to \$6,000 in "access award" grants if they are providing for dependent children. Students receiving a Cal Grant C, targeted at short-term career technical education programs such as certificates, could receive up to \$4,000 under this proposal. The Commission estimates that there are approximately 29,000 students currently receiving Cal Grant aid who would qualify for this additional "access award."

In addition to expanding financial aid for students with children, the Governor's budget also proposes to increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant awards that the Commission may issue from 25,750 to 30,000. These grants overwhelmingly serve students who do not attend college at what used to be considered the "traditional" age -- immediately after high school -- and mostly go to Community College students. The Commission has long advocated for increasing the number of Competitive Cal Grant awards.

"The Competitive Cal Grant is the State's main source of financial aid for what we used to call 'non-traditional' students – those who, for whatever reason, are not able to attend college immediately after high school graduation," said Ajose. "As the demographic of today's student changes, so too

does our financial aid system – and we are pleased to see that the Governor recognizes the value of this program.”

Commission leaders noted that, since 2017, a group of stakeholders led by the Commission has been discussing a broad overhaul of California’s financial aid system, including breaking down eligibility barriers, increasing aid to the lowest-income students, and reducing the total cost of attendance for all students. The Commission adopted a set of principles intended to guide this ongoing discussion at its November 2018 meeting.

###

*The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s policy leader in the administration of financial aid for higher education, making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians. California Student Aid Commission serves the needs of not only today’s college students but tomorrow’s students, guiding them through the application process. Information and tools are available online for the parents of tomorrow’s college and career technical students, a fully staffed call center answers questions and the California Student Aid Commission provides workshops and funds grants to organizations that provide access opportunities for students who are first in their family to attend institutions of higher education. For more information on how the California Student Aid Commission serves to educate, inform, and support students, their educational institutions, and the professionals who assist them please visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on [Twitter](#) @castudentaid and [Facebook](#) <https://www.facebook.com/CSAC.StudentAidCommission/>.*