



Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) December Newsletter 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this GDSM Newsletter is to keep institutions and the student support community abreast of our progress monthly through the final transition to the new system, and quarterly for improvements deployed throughout 2021.



GDSM Sponsor Message

Catalina Mistler, GDSM Project Executive Sponsor

Wishing you safe and enjoyable celebrations as we move into the heart of the holiday season. Our staff is hard at work to make our transition to the GDSM system in 2021 as smooth as possible. We will be providing additional information for scheduling and training in January. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy some time off as we say goodbye to 2020.

PRESENTATION

If you have not viewed the “GDSM Project Presentation” of the GDSM new features and screens posted along side of the November Newsletter on this site, please take the time to do so. We look forward to providing these improvements and new services to you in 2021.

Project Management

George Polisner, State GDSM Project Manager

THE FINAL STRETCH OF THE GDSM PROJECT

As we move through the final month of 2020, the GDSM team also wishes you a warm and peaceful holiday. We are continuing to work toward the Spring 2021 launch of GDSM WebGrants for Institutions and GDSM CADAA. Development of the remaining GDSM system is now 74% complete, and Software

Quality Assurance (SQA) testing is 63% complete. After development and SQA completion, we will begin comprehensive system testing to ensure the system functions properly and meets specifications and non-functional requirements (such as stability and throughput). Then User Acceptance Testing will be conducted to ensure day-to-day business, and user scenarios are sufficient and correct for business usage prior to our launch.

Earlier this month we successfully completed testing of a pilot project supporting county participation in the Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge. Wishing you all the best this holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Added Functionality Updates: Migrated Programs

The GDSM development continues once programs are moved to the new unified platform. Below are some of the enhancements added to Programs that have been migrated to the new GDSM platform.

Program	Improvement Implemented
November 2020 Web Grants for Students (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chafee program related message is updated informing students to contact their school’s Financial Aid Office in case they have not received their check. • Home page is updated with following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Updated CSAC logo. b) Removed outdated messages from the home page. c) Added two video links for Account Recovery and Create an Account to assist users with log in. • When the student is dependent, the Marital Status label in the Show More Details section under the Cal Grant Panel Award Status Card, displays “Parents’ Marital Status”.
October 2020 Chafee Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Home link on the Foster Youth Application (https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/fosteryouthapplication) now redirects to correct Chafee home page on the CSAC website.
September 2020 WebGrants for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award Status Card now displays the link to Cal Grant Appeals G-18 Form that shows how to submit an appeal. Many of the students need a little additional information about submitting an appeal. This link navigates students to the G-18 form page on the CSAC website.
July August 2020 WebGrants for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Attendance Card now displays the amounts for students who are in a pending status based on the school • A Link was added to the Cal Grant Award Amount FAQs Sheet for students to get more information about the award amounts at specific campuses.

Coming Soon

The training materials, schedules and on-demand learning availability projections will be published a few months prior to release for planning purposes. As we get closer to the final release, we will cover the

first-time login instructions for CADAA and the institutions. This will be the most important part of getting started.

What to Expect

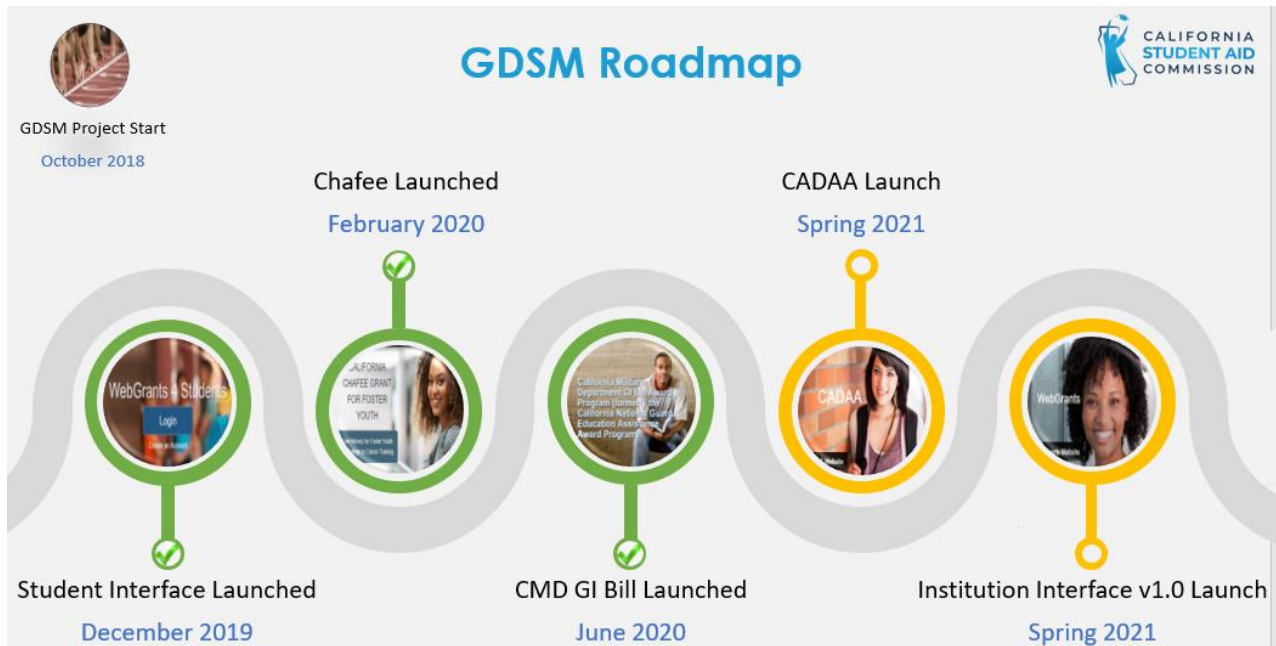
Program Developments	What to Expect
CADAA	CADAA will have the same easy to use look and feel as the Student Landing Page, including increased visibility throughout the approval and award process. The CADAA will also be scalable for use on tablets and cell phones.
WebGrants for Institutions	Institutions will have a new and improved look and feel on the WebGrants for Institutions page. The current functionality is preserved with some improvements in the presentation.
Added Functionality	Continuous program improvements will be the priority and focus through and beyond 2021 made possible by the transition to modern technology.
Training	<p>CSAC is in the process of updating our e-learning capabilities for high school counselors, administrators, financial aid administrators, and students. Using one of the leading eLearning authoring tools and best practices in eLearning design, this platform will transform projects into a responsive and rapid eLearning alternative for internal and external stakeholders. Some of the key features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On demand learning • Converts existing training materials into eLearning courses • Creates a new look and feel to the training modules • Offers interactive features for your training modules

GDSM Key Benefits

The Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project provides an easily accessible, one-stop shop for applying and managing the grant application and funding process. Through the GDSM Project, CSAC is completing development of a system that:

- ◆ Process Improvements
- ◆ Reduction of manual effort
- ◆ Increased staff productivity and efficiency
- ◆ More efficient allocation of grant funds
- ◆ Improved internal and external satisfaction

Project Timeline



Contact Us

Please direct questions and inquiries to:

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