Affordability as a Barrier to Access and Success at California’s Public Colleges and Universities

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California Assembly Higher Education
Committee Oversight Hearing

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Loma Pelona Center
University of California, Santa Barbara
Net Price vs. Sticker Price at Three Public California Institutions

Sources: Figures were produced by each school’s Net Price Calculator and rounded separately to the nearest $100. Berkeley City College and UC Berkeley are based on the 2011-12 award year; CSU East Bay is based on the 2012-13 award year.
Compared to Other State Grant Programs, Cal Grants Are:

- #1 in total dollars provided
- #5 in number of students served
- #16 in dollars provided per full-time equivalent student
The Maximum Cal Grant Covers 8% - 43% of Total College Costs, Depending on College Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012-13 Costs and Cal Grants</th>
<th>Berkeley City College</th>
<th>CSU East Bay</th>
<th>UC Berkeley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Systemwide Fees</td>
<td>$1,104</td>
<td>$5,472</td>
<td>$12,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total College Costs</td>
<td>$17,889</td>
<td>$24,771</td>
<td>$28,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum 1st-Year Cal Grant</td>
<td>$1,473</td>
<td>$5,472</td>
<td>$12,192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share of Total Costs Covered by Maximum 1st-Year Cal Grant

- 8%
- 22%
- 43%
Very Few of the Lowest-Income Aid Applicants in California Receive a Cal Grant

23% In California, 23% of very low-income students who apply for aid receive a Cal Grant.

Of very low-income students:

77% UC students are the most likely to receive a Cal Grant.

16% CCC students are the least likely to receive a Cal Grant.
1. Increase the Cal Grant B Access Award, which helps low-income recipients limit their work hours and focus on their studies.

2. Serve more Cal Grant-eligible students.

3. Include tuition awards for first-year Cal Grant B recipients, to enable low-income students to choose the college that is right for them.
Recommendations to Target Available Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) Resources

1. **Prioritize applicants with the greatest need:**
   - Limit scholarship funds to covering students’ unmet financial need, as defined under federal needs analysis.
   - Adjust the sliding scale to provide larger subsidies to Californians at or below California median household income.

2. **Level the playing field between middle- and low-income aid recipients:**
   - Limit years of MCS eligibility to the same number as for Cal Grants.

3. **Include community college students:**
   - Community college students face substantial affordability challenges and are most likely to be underserved by the Cal Grant program.
   - MCS legislation considered in 2012 included support for community college students, but the MCS program created in 2013 did not.