



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

February 8, 2022

GSA 2022-07

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **Cal Grant Access Award for Foster Youth**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides an update on the Cal Grant Access Award for Foster Youth. As announced in [GSA 2021-31](#), current or former foster youth attending public institutions may receive additional Cal Grant benefits, starting in the 2021-22 award year. The Commission awarded Cal Grant Foster Youth Access awards on February 4, 2022.

Eligibility

To qualify for the Cal Grant Access Award for Foster Youth, a student must:

- Receive either a new or renewal Cal Grant A, B, or C award.
- Attend a University of California, California State University, or California Community College campus.
- Be verified as an eligible foster youth by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).
- Under 26 years of age by July 1 of the award year.

California Education Code [section 66025.9](#) defines foster youth and former foster youth as a person in California whose dependency was established or continued by a court of competent jurisdiction, including a tribal court, on or after the youth's 13th birthday.

Eligible Cal Grant A and B students may receive an access award of up to \$6,000. Cal Grant C students may receive an access award of up to \$4,000.

Students may receive the Cal Grant Access Award for Foster Youth in addition to the Chafee Grant Program. However, students may not receive access funds as students with dependent children (SWD) in addition to the Access Award for Foster Youth.

2021-22 Cal Grant Access Awards for Foster Youth

- For the 2021-22 academic year, records with the **FYA** (Foster Youth Access) system indicator on the display roster screen were updated with the maximum award amount they could be eligible for based on the student's financial need.
- For students that have a partial payment reported in WebGrants for the fall term, institutions will need to report an adjusted payment amount for the full amount

the student was eligible for during that term and prorated based on the same enrollment status reported with the initial payment.

- All other payments should be prorated based on enrollment following the information provided in [GOM 2021-31](#) (Cal Grant Award Disbursement and Census Date).

Grant Roster Data File

The Grant Roster Data File displays a flag that identifies students eligible for the Foster Youth Access Award in the Grant Delivery System. The output file will identify eligible Foster Youth students using the existing 'Program Code Flag' (position: 67-70) with the following code: **FYA** (Foster Youth Access).

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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