SPECIAL ALERT
Update from the California Student Aid Commission

June 19, 2024   **GSA 2024-43**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
           High School Counselors
           High School Principals
           County and District Superintendents

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **Statewide Cash for College Webinars – Virtual Schedule**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces an upcoming series of Statewide Cash for College Webinars.

These webinars are **free** and will provide information to help students and families finalize their 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

Who should attend?

- Open to <u>all</u> students and families applying for financial aid and seeking to maximize their financial aid opportunities.
- Students seeking help finalizing their financial aid application.
- Students interested in attending a CA community college during the 2024-25 academic year. Utilize the [September 3 Social Media Toolkit](#) to amplify your Community College deadline efforts.
- FAFSA filers from mixed status families, encountering issues with submitting their FAFSA when one or more of their parents (or spouse, if the student is married), does not have a Social Security Number.

Webinar descriptions

- **General:** this webinar will contain general information, geared towards a broad audience. This webinar caters to both FAFSA and CADAA filers.

- **Non-SSN Contributor:** this webinar is catered for FAFSA filers who are experiencing issues completing their FAFSA when one of their contributors (parent or student spouse), does not have a Social Security Number. The U.S. Department of Education has made progress to streamline the process for Non-SSN contributors, and the Commission also opened the CADAA for those students experiencing these issues. This

webinar will go over the known issues, potential workarounds and more information on the option to submit a CADAA.

Register for the webinars through the links below or on the Cash for College Webinar Registration site.

- June 18 (Non-SSN Contributor), 5:30-7:00 PM Register for webinar
- June 20 (General), 6:00-7:15PM Register for webinar
- June 25 (General), 5:30-6:45PM Register for webinar
- July 23 (Non-SSN Contributor), 6:00-7:15PM Register for webinar
- July 29 (General), 5:30-6:45PM Register for webinar
- August 14 (General), 6:00-7:15PM Register for webinar
- August 21 (General), 5:30-6:45PM Register for webinar
- August 29 (General), 6:00-7:15PM Register for webinar

Student Submission Date and Cal Grant Appeals

First-time financial aid applicants can still be considered "on-time" for state aid if they have not fully completed an application before May 2 due to technical issues. To determine if a student met the state priority deadlines in California, the Commission looks at the "submission date" the student signed their portion of the financial aid application (FAFSA or CADAA). The "submission date" represents the day the student first signed their portion of their financial aid application.Applicants with a submission date on or before May 2, 2024 have met the state priority deadline, even if the student is still awaiting signatures from their parent or spouse contributors. Students in this scenario simply need to complete their application but **do not need to appeal** for on-time consideration.

Students who were disqualified for a Cal Grant award due to not meeting the state priority deadline, may appeal to be considered for Cal Grant entitlement awards, if the reason for not meeting the state deadline was due to the various FAFSA technical issues. More information can be found in GSA 2024-34.

The Commission is here as a resource to support students in preparing for their futures by applying for financial aid and in ensuring that students can access resources needed to help make college or career training affordable! Please share this opportunity with your students, families, and communities!

Need to contact us?

➢ School Support phone number: (888) 294-0153

➢ E-mail: cashforcollege@csac.ca.gov

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!

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