July 18, 2024   **GSA 2024-50**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: **Opening of 2024-25 CADAA School-Level Corrections**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces the opening of the 2024-25 school-level corrections for the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

Colleges are now able to submit CADAA corrections in Web Grants. The process of submitting a school-level CADAA correction remains relatively unchanged from prior years. Financial Aid Administrators (FAA) are able to submit corrections in WebGrants for the following functions:

Special Circumstances:

Refers to adjustments made by an FAA to data elements in the SAI calculation due to the student or their family's financial situation. Examples include, but are not limited to: changes to family income or assets, job loss, substantial out of pocket medical/dental expenses, divorce or separation after filing CADAA.

- To submit corrections related to special circumstances, the FAA will click on the "Professional Judgment" box after making the necessary adjustments.

Unusual Circumstances:

Refers to adjustments made by an FAA to a student's dependency status based on a unique situation, commonly referred to as a "Dependency Override." Examples include but are not limited to: students who are victims of human trafficking, parental incarceration, abandonment, or estrangement.

- Overrides can only be made in one direction from dependent to independent.

- If FAA determines that a Dependency Override **is** warranted, the FAA will select "FAA override from dependent to independent" from the drop-down box under the Dependency Override section.

- If FAA determines that a Dependency Override **is not** warranted, the FAA will correct the student's response to the unusual circumstances question and change the response from "Yes" to "No." The student's CADAA application will be set to a rejected status and corresponding reject and comment codes will appear. To resolve, the student would be required to correct their CADAA and provide parental information.

Homeless Youth Determinations

Students who answer "Yes" to being unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless but whose status hasn't been determined by any entity, may have their status confirmed by a financial aid administrator via WebGrants.

- If FAA determines that student **meets the criteria** for a homeless youth determination, the FAA will select the box for "Financial Aid Administrator." Doing so, will remove the associated reject code and comment code as well as set the student's dependency status to Independent and Provisional SAI will be recalculated to an official SAI.

- If FAA determines that student **does not meet the criteria** for a homeless youth determination, the FAA will select "No" to the question pertaining to being unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

- A message will pop-up for the FAA to confirm the "No" response. Upon submission of the correction, the CADAA will be set to a rejected status with associated comment codes being set, requiring the student to provide parental information.

2024-25 Paper CADAA Processing

With the opening of school-level corrections, Commission staff have begun to process paper CADAA applications. Paper CADAA applications for 2024-25 make up less than 1% of all CADAAs submitted to date. Commission staff will process all paper CADAA applications as quickly as possible.

2024-25 CADAA Verification

As a reminder, effective with the 2024-25 AY, CADAA verification has been reduced to no more than 10% per GSA 2024-17. The Commission will continue to follow V1 verification for any CADAA applicants selected for verification. Students are selected at random and as in previous years, schools are able to confirm completion of verification on the CADAA correction screen by clicking on the "Verification Completed" box.

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