

California Student Aid Commission  
Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee

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## Item 6

### (Information Item)

#### Update on new programs

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**SUMMARY:**

This item provides an update on the implementation of the Golden State Teachers Grant Program and the Dreamer Services Incentive Grant Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This an information item only; no action is required.

**BACKGROUND:**

This item provides an update on two new programs that were established in the Budget Acts of 2019 and 2020. These programs include the Golden State Teachers Grant, and the Dreamer Services Incentive Grant Program. The Commission approved grants for one additional new program, the Child Savings Account Grant Program at its January 21, 2021 meeting.

The Golden State Teacher Program (GSTGP)

The GSTGP was initially established in the 2019 Budget Act (SB 109, Chapter 363, Statutes of 2019) with program details delineated in the trailer bill (SB 75, Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019) with a total appropriation of nearly \$89 million to provide \$20,000 awards for teaching candidates who agreed to teach in a high need school for four years. Failure to fulfill the required teaching service requires repayment of the grant amount.

In consultation with Commission staff and segmental representatives, SB 116 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2020) amended the program to authorize grants in an amount less than \$20,000 to accommodate campus financial aid packaging rules. SB 116 also extended the available of funds through June 30, 2023 and required teaching candidates to be enrolled in an approved teaching preparation program within a California institution of higher education.

The GSTGP was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of available state resources. AB 89 (Chapter 7, Statutes of 2020) reverted the funding provided in the 2019 Budget Act and those funds were instead replaced it with \$15 million from federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funds through the California

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Department of Education (CDE) and authorized awards of up to \$20,000 for teacher candidates who agree to teach special education in high need schools.

Current status: Commission program staff implemented an application and has received approximately 330 GSTGP applications from special education teaching candidates currently enrolled in approved programs for the 2020-21 academic year. Once the reimbursement agreement is finalized with the CDE, Commission staff will verify candidate eligibility and will begin to issue grant payments. Commission staff have been working directly with segmental leads and campus representatives on the operational aspects of program implementation. Details and program updates are available on the Commission's website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/golden-state-teacher-grant-program>.

### The Dreamer Service Incentive Grant (DSIG)

The DSIG was initially established through the Education Omnibus budget trailer bill that was signed by Governor Newsom on July 1, 2019. SEC. 13. Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 69438) was added to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code to establish the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program, which was later renamed the Dreamer Service Incentive Grant Program through Assembly Bill 540.

Given that the State's fiscal outlook drastically changed following the pandemic, the 2020-21 Budget Act suspended the DSIG for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 award years and redirected funds previously allocated for this program to provide disaster relief emergency funds for undocumented students at public colleges and universities in California. The Commission was directed to distribute \$11 million to the California Community Colleges (CCC), \$3 million to the California State University (CSU) and \$1 million to the University of California (UC). The DSIG program was set to relaunch in the 2021-22 award year.

The program is limited to 2,500 students at any one time and will award eligible students on a first-come-first-served basis. In order to receive a grant under the program, a student must be a Cal Grant B recipient and must perform at least 100 hours per quarter or 150 hours per semester of community or volunteer service. The community or volunteer service must be performed at an approved organization and cannot be advocacy of a political, social, or religious nature. The service should be related to the student's field of study or be in furtherance of community service or a community need. Once a student has met the minimum service requirement, the student will be eligible for an award of up to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per semester or one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per quarter. Eligible students could receive a grant under the program for a maximum of eight semesters or 12 quarters.

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Current status: Commission staff is currently working on the implementation of this program in consultation with the workgroup that was previously established in collaboration with the Financial Aid Advisory Board. The workgroup has agreed upon a process and workflow, and staff anticipate opening the application process for eligible students beginning July 1, 2021. The website and marketing materials for the program are being developed. Commission staff continues to draft the business requirements for this program which will assist the Information Technology staff to develop an automated solution. Staff is also finalizing the application process and establishing the entities that will provide the service opportunities.

### **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

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