

## Item 6

(Action Item)

### Consideration of proposed fiscal year 2021-22 Cal-SOAP consortia allocations and extension of the Los Angeles consortium grant agreement

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**SUMMARY:**

This item provides the proposed fiscal year 2021-22 funding allocations for the 14 California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) consortia and extension of the Los Angeles consortium grant agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed fiscal year 2021-22 funding allocations and authorize staff to execute grant agreements for two years with 13 Cal-SOAP consortia. In addition, staff recommends the extension of two years of the Los Angeles Cal-SOAP consortium grant agreement, which was awarded through a Request for Application. Staff also recommends delegating to the Executive Director flexibility to reallocate fiscal year 2021-2022 funds equitably if a project cannot utilize all its allocated funds or if the final 2021-2022 Budget Act allocates amends the total proposed appropriation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The California State Legislature established Cal-SOAP in 1978. The Cal-SOAP program consists of regional consortia whose aim is to increase postsecondary education opportunities for students who are: 1) from low-income families, 2) first-generation college students, 3) from schools or regions with low college eligibility and/or low college-going rates, and 4) homeless youth. Each locally governed project is operated by a governing board consisting of representatives from local secondary school districts, community colleges, universities, community agencies, and may include career technical schools. The governing boards of each Cal-SOAP project determine the services and college access needs of its local schools and communities. However, all projects are required to: (1) increase the availability of information on postsecondary education and work opportunities and (2) raise the achievement levels of the students they serve to increase the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities.

Cal-SOAP funding has varied over the years due to different funding sources including federal grants, the Student Loan Operating Fund, and the state General Fund. Over the years, new Cal-SOAP consortia were added via legislation, planning grants, annual budget act or a budget change proposal. Since 2015, Cal-SOAP funding has been

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allocated by the Commission to the consortia through the General Fund in the annual Budget Act. Furthermore, if additional funding was made available, the funds have been distributed equitably amongst the operating Cal-SOAP consortia.

In 2018, Cal-SOAP Los Angeles was piloted as the first consortium to be awarded through the Request for Application. Cal-SOAP Los Angeles has operated for three years under this agreement. Per the Request for Application, CSAC reserves the right to extend the grant period for up to an additional 5 years to align with the next cycle of Cal-SOAP grant awards.

Education Code section 69513.1 authorizes the Commission to:

[D]elegate to the director any power, duty, purpose, function, or jurisdiction that the commission may lawfully delegate, including the authority to enter into and sign contracts on behalf of the commission.

### ANALYSIS:

2021-22 fiscal year funding recommendations: The consortia have prepared and submitted their 2021-22 Annual Program Plans (APP) with the understanding that any changes to the proposed allocations will require their plans to be revised.

This year, legislation was introduced, SB 737 (Limon), to modernize the Cal-SOAP programs to serve the needs of today's students. If passed, Senate Bill 737 will re-define Cal-SOAP goals and objectives to align with statewide goals of advancing financial aid literacy and education. Cal-SOAP will be a critical financial outreach program that will provide support to Local Educational Agencies in meeting state goals of FAFSA and California Dream Act Application completion. Furthermore, Cal-SOAP's will serve as a community resource to their partners and serve as financial aid experts. The proposed legislation also supports data collection and outcome reporting.

As we anticipate these changes, staff recommends entering into grant agreements with 13 of the consortia in Table 1, for two years, Fiscal Years 2021-22 and 2022-23, subject to final appropriations contained in the annual budget acts and to extend the grant agreement for the Los Angeles Cal-SOAP consortium for an additional two years through June 30, 2023 to. This change aligns the grant award with the other consortia. The recommended funding levels are consistent with the current and historical fiscal year allocations that the consortia have received in past years.

Table 1 - CAL-SOAP FISCAL YEAR 2021-22  
PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION

Consortium	2021-22 Allocation
Central Coast	\$ 434,402
Central Valley	\$ 408,117
East Bay/Solano	\$1,042,035
Long Beach	\$ 439,448

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Los Angeles	\$ 728,515
Merced	\$ 415,056
North Coast	\$ 434,396
Sacramento	\$ 654,006
San Diego/Imperial	\$1,045,219
San Francisco	\$ 387,498
San Jose	\$ 530,582
Santa Barbara	\$ 524,768
South County Gilroy	\$ 418,295
South San Joaquin	\$ 435,663
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,898,000</b>

Consortia occasionally have changes such as changes in project staff, and in program plans and activities, that causes funds to be unused. Staff recommends delegating to the Executive Director the authority to redirect these funds and to amend agreements so that appropriated funding is fully expended.

### RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

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