

# SEARS Survey Update

## June 20, 2022

Data, Analysis, & Research Team  
California Student Aid  
Commission

# Purpose of SEARS

- CSAC has a statutory mandate to “Collect and disseminate information concerning the financial resources and needs of students...” [Education Code sec. 69514(b)].
- Establish CSAC’s Student Expense Budget (SEB)
- Develop report on student experiences paying for college
- Provide campus-level data to participating institutions

# Timeline – Completed Items 21-22 Cycle

- Meet with segmental representatives (SEARS Advisory Committee)
- Reach out to student representatives for input on survey
- Invite private institutions to participate
- Send MOUs to participating segments and institutions

# Timeline – Completed Items 21-22 Cycle

- Submit project application to state IRB for human subjects approval
- Execute MOUs with participating segments and institutions
- Administer survey online to four-year students in fall 2021 and to community college students in spring 2022

# Changes to Survey

- Removed questions

- Food and housing insecurity
- Credit card balance
- Marital status
- Non-financial obstacles to success in college

- Added questions

- Internet access points
- Zip code and commute time
- Commuting costs to permanent residence
- Car payments

# Changes to Survey

- Edited questions
  - Separated child from non-child dependents
  - Changed hours and wages to close-ended responses
  - Separated Internet costs from housing and utilities
  - Wording changes for clarity
- Administration
  - Surveying at all CCCs
  - Surveying at least 25% of all undergraduate students at each institutions
  - Emailing survey through Mailchimp

# Fall Survey Update

- Completed administration of survey in November/December to CSU, UC and private independent college students
- 16,906 respondents
- 9.9% response rate overall
  - UC 8.1%, CSU 10.4%, private ind. 13.2%

# Spring Survey Update

- Completed administration of survey in April/May to community college students
- 7,016 responses (3.1% response rate)



# Next Steps in Summer 2022

- Contracted with Mathematica to perform survey sample weighting and population analysis
- Create Student Expense Budgets
- Analyze results for trends and create “SEARS Spotlight” briefings

# SEARS Survey Comments/Questions...