

Item 6

(Action Item)

Consideration of proposed fiscal year 2022-23 California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) consortia allocations

SUMMARY:

This item provides the proposed fiscal year 2022-23 funding allocations for the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) consortia and makes recommendations to amend grant agreements, if funding adjustments are necessary.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the staff recommendations to:

1. Approve the proposed fiscal year 2022-23 Cal-SOAP funding allocations and authorize staff to execute grant agreements with the 14 Cal-SOAP consortia, upon approval of the final 2022-23 State Budget appropriation.
2. Delegate to the Executive Director, flexibility to reallocate fiscal year 2022-2023 funds equitably if a project cannot utilize all its allocated funds or if the final 2022-2023 Budget Act amends the total proposed appropriation.
3. Authorize the Executive Director to amend grant agreements with the two current Inland Empire Cal-SOAP consortia if additional funds are appropriated for that purpose for the fiscal year 2022-23.

BACKGROUND:

Since its inception in 1978, the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) has focused on increasing the availability of information and improving college access to postsecondary education for historically underserved student populations. Cal-SOAP projects create a college-going culture, focusing on financial aid application completion, and coordinating student outreach efforts.

The Cal-SOAP consists of regional consortia with each locally governed project 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 to increase the

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number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities.

Senate Bill (SB) 737 (Limon) signed by the Governor on October 6, 2021, amended the California Education Code commencing with Section 69560 to modernize the Cal-SOAP program's mission to serve the needs of today's students by re-defining Cal-SOAP goals and objectives to align with statewide goals of advancing financial aid literacy and education. Cal-SOAP will be a critical financial aid outreach program that will provide support to Local Educational Agencies in meeting state goals of Free Application for Federal Student Aid 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 legislation also requires data collection and outcome reporting. Staff is currently working on the implementation of the data collection and outcome reporting requirements under SB 737 and will propose changes to the Cal-SOAP grant application for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The Cal-SOAP consortia have prepared and submitted their 2022-23 Annual Program Plans (APP) with the understanding that any changes to the proposed allocations will require their plans to be revised. Based on the proposed 2022-23 budget allocations, staff recommends entering into grant agreements with 14 of the consortia in Table 1, beginning on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, subject to final appropriations contained in the annual budget act. 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 2022-23
PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION

Consortium	2022-23 Proposed Allocation
Central Coast	\$ 434,402
Central Valley	\$ 408,117
East Bay/Solano	\$1,042,035
Long Beach	\$ 439,448
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
Total	\$7,898,000

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Amendments to Cal-SOAP Grant Agreements

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.

Adjustments to these proposed allocations may be made to apportion up to 2 percent of funding for program administration, data collection and evaluation. Consortia may also experience changes in project staff and in program plans and activities, that may impact the use of their allocated funds. Based on these potential program funding changes, staff recommends delegating to the Executive Director the authority to redirect these funds and to amend agreements so that appropriated funding is fully expended.

In addition to the 14 Cal-SOAP projects listed above, there are two Cal-SOAP projects in the Inland Empire, Riverside and San Bernardino, that were awarded through the Request for Application (RFA) process and have operated under this agreement. Per the RFA, the Commission extended the grant period through June 30, 2023, to align the next cycle of Cal-SOAP grant awards. Should additional Cal-SOAP funds be appropriated and designated for the Inland Empire projects, staff recommends delegating authority to the Executive Director to amend these grant agreements with the additional funding allocated for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Michael Lemus, Manager
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ATTACHMENT(S):

Cal-SOAP Presentation