
**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE CAL GRANT PROGRAM
2019-20 to 2021-22**



CSAC
CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

Legislative Report Requirement

California Education Code Section 69437.7, and
Section 8 of Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 11, 2000, the Legislature and the Governor took an important step toward providing educational opportunity to California students by ensuring access to and choice of institution of higher education. With the enactment of the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act (Senate Bill 1644, Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000), California modified the then-existing Cal Grant Program into a two-tiered approach that:

- Guarantees an Entitlement Cal Grant to graduating high school seniors and specified transfer students who meet the program eligibility requirements; and
- Provides a limited number of Competitive Cal Grant awards to students who do not qualify for an Entitlement grant.

The statutory limit on the number of new Competitive Cal Grant awards increased to 41,000 for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 award years. Commencing with the 2021-22 award year, the limit was reduced to 13,000 following the creation of a new entitlement program which awards all applicants attending a California Community College.

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) conducted two award competitions each year. The March Competition provided fifty percent of available awards to students, regardless of the California college or university they choose to attend. The September Competition, which reserved fifty percent of awards for students attending a California Community College, was eliminated in 2021-22.

Since the pool of eligible applicants has always exceeded the statutory limit, the Commission must prioritize or rank each applicant. California Education Code Section 69437(c)(1) requires the Commission to establish selection criteria for Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards that give special consideration to disadvantaged students, taking into account those financial, educational, cultural, language, home, community, environmental, and other conditions that hamper a student’s access to, and ability to persist in, postsecondary education programs.

The chart below summarizes the average characteristics of the Competitive Cal Grant Program eligible new applicants for the academic years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22.

	Offered Awardees		Eligible Non-Offered Awardees
	March	September	
Income	\$8,067 – \$8,921	\$8,164 – \$9,460	\$29,495 – \$35,804
GPA	3.12 – 3.24	3.06 – 3.11	2.92 – 3.13
Family Size	2.1 – 2.4	2.7 – 2.8	2.4 – 3.0
Age	29 – 32	30	26 – 27

Despite the increase to the statutory limit on the number of new Competitive Cal Grant awards in 2019-20, the number of applicants who met all eligibility criteria but did not receive an award was still over 240,000 in 2019-20. This count decreased to less than 60,000 in 2021-22 due to the creation of the California Community College Entitlement program, which has allowed the Commission to serve more students than ever before.

SECTION I- INTRODUCTION

The Commission is the state's primary provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission's primary programmatic responsibilities include administration of the Cal Grant program, the Middle Class Scholarship, the Chafee Grant Program for foster youth, and several targeted state scholarship and loan assumption programs. The Commission administers financial aid awareness and outreach programs, such as Cal-SOAP and Cash for College, in collaboration with business, private industry, and community-based organizations.

The Commission also exercises policy leadership on student financial aid issues, evaluates the effectiveness of its programs, conducts research and long-range planning as a foundation for program improvement, reports on total state financial aid needs, and disseminates information to students and their families.

The Commission consists of 15 appointed members. Eleven members are appointed by the Governor and represent segments of the State's higher education community, postsecondary education students, and the general public. In addition, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee each appoint two Commission members as representatives of the general public.

In its policy decision-making, the Commission receives advice and recommendations from its staff, the postsecondary education segments, relevant state agencies, representatives of secondary schools, student groups, and various levels of government.

Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000)

On September 11, 2000, Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000), also known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act, was signed into law. This historic bill changed the previous Cal Grant A and B programs into the Entitlement Cal Grant A and B and Competitive Cal Grant A and B programs and retained the existing Cal Grant C program. As with the original Cal Grant Program, a student must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and a Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) verification form by the statutory deadlines to be considered for a Competitive Cal Grant award.

The Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act ("Cal Grant Act") implemented the state's historic commitment to provide educational opportunity by ensuring both student access to and selection of an institution of higher education for students with financial need. This commitment to both access and choice remains unchanged. The portability of the Cal Grant supports the State's long-standing commitment to access and choice for California's most disadvantaged students. It provides a way to choose an institution best suited to the student, not just what the student initially might think they

can afford. As a result, Cal Grant awards are offered to students attending all segments of Cal Grant eligible postsecondary institutions: the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the California State University, as well as a large variety of non-profit and for-profit institutions.

The Cal Grant Act established two separate award deadlines for the Competitive Program: March 2nd and September 2nd. The September deadline allowed students who decide to apply for financial aid after March 2nd to compete for a California Community College Competitive Cal Grant award. Each Competition had fifty percent of the authorized awards and both offer Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B. The major difference between the two deadlines was that to be eligible for the September Competition, a student must be currently enrolled in a California Community College for the fall term. Starting in the 2021-22 award year, the creation of the California Community College Entitlement program eliminated the need for a separate September Competition since all California Community College students would now be offered a Cal Grant.

Reporting Requirements

The Cal Grant Act requires that the Commission do the following:

1. California Education Code Section 69437.7

After two award cycles, the commission shall review the competitive grant program and its priorities to gain a better understanding of early participation patterns and to determine the initial level of program effectiveness. The commission shall report these findings to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2003, and each year thereafter.

2. Section 8 of Senate Bill 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000)

The Student Aid Commission shall annually report to the Legislature and the Governor on the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program from its inception on both of the following:

- (a) The number of Cal Grant applicants and new and continuing offered awardees each year. This data shall include at a minimum the following information about offered awardees: educational level, grade point average, segment of attendance, number of community college transfer students.
- (b) A longitudinal component that measures student persistence and graduation rates over time.

Chapter 7, Statutes of 2011 (Senate Bill 70) enacted on March 24, 2011, requires as a condition for its voluntary participation in the Cal Grant Program, each Cal Grant participating institution shall, beginning in 2012, annually report to the Commission, and as further specified in the institutional participation agreement, both of the following for its undergraduate programs:

- (a) Enrollment, persistence, and graduation data for all students, including aggregate information on Cal Grant paid recipients.
- (b) The job placement rate and salary and wage information for each program that is either (1) designed or advertised to lead to a particular type of job; or (2) advertised or promoted with any claim regarding job placement.

Starting in the 2019-20 award year, California Education Code Section 69508.5(b) made students who file a California Dream Act Application eligible to compete for a Competitive Cal Grant award. The number of available awards to be paid was also increased from 27,500 to 41,000. Following the creation of the Community College Entitlement program, however, this amount was then reduced to 13,000 to reflect the share of non-California Community College students paid in prior years.

SECTION II – THE APPLICATION PROCESS

To be eligible to compete for a new Competitive Cal Grant, students must complete and submit two forms: a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and a Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form by the March 2nd and/or September 2nd deadlines. Applicants who meet certain criteria may submit a test score (GED, SAT, or ACT) in lieu of a GPA.

Financial Aid Application

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the core application required to assist in determining financial eligibility for all federal, as well as many state and institutional, grant and loan programs. Students complete an online version of the FAFSA or submit a paper application to the federal government's central processor. Federal methodology prescribed by Congress is used to determine an applicant's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is based on income, assets, family size and other factors derived from the FAFSA application. The EFC is the amount of money that the student and parent(s) of a dependent student can reasonably be expected to contribute toward the student's education.

The Commission receives these federal application data in an electronic format directly from the federal processor once the applicant's identity has been authenticated through a match with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security. The federal processor sends data for all students who are California residents and/or nonresidents who list a California postsecondary institution on their application.

Students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA may be eligible to complete the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), an application that the Commission developed, based on the FAFSA, to determine their eligibility for state aid.

Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA) Verification Form

California Education Code Section 69432.9 requires students to submit a verified Cal Grant GPA for consideration in the Commission's Cal Grant Program. Students work directly with their schools to ensure that a verified GPA is submitted by the application deadline. High school and postsecondary institution administrators may report individual or large volume GPA verifications through the Commission's secure website or via individual reporting on the paper Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (G-4).

Edits

After receiving FAFSA records from the federal central processor, the Commission compares each FAFSA record to the Commission's database to determine if an applicant's record is already on file and is receiving an award. If not, then the record is

matched to the Commission's database of Cal Grant GPA verifications received for the forthcoming competition.

Applicants with both a FAFSA and a verified GPA on file have new electronic records established in the database which then undergo an intensive automated evaluation. This sequential evaluation is often referred to as the edit process. The edits are grouped in broad categories known by the following terms: Common Edits, Program Edits, and Financial Edits. Applicants must pass all edits to remain in the eligible applicant pool.

Common Edits

Common Edits evaluate the applications for overall Cal Grant eligibility. Applicants must:

- be California residents
- be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens
- meet U.S. Selective Service requirements
- not have a baccalaureate or first professional degree
- attend a qualifying California postsecondary institution
- not be in default on any student loan
- not owe any federal or state grant refund

Program Edits

An applicant's record then is reviewed on the basis of Program Edits to identify the most likely program for which an applicant may be eligible to receive further evaluation, such as a Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B. These Edits include:

- Eligible school*
- Grade Point Average (at least 2.0 GPA for Cal Grant B and 3.0 high school GPA or 2.4 college GPA for Cal Grant A).
- Remaining eligibility for the program (has not used four years of Cal Grant benefits)

At this point in the process, Competitive Cal Grant applicants who do not satisfy the Common Edits or Program Edits are flagged as ineligible.

*All eligible or qualifying schools, as defined by California Education Code (CEC) 69432.7(l)(1), must complete an Institutional Participation Agreement with the Commission and agree to comply with all current and applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Schools or postsecondary institutions seeking to participate in the Cal Grant Program must meet various statutory eligibility requirements, including a federal student loan three-year Cohort Default Rate threshold and a graduation rate threshold.

Financial Edits

Applicants are next evaluated to determine if they meet the income and asset standards, and then reviewed to determine whether they have sufficient financial need. These filters are described below:

1. Income Ceilings – Income ceilings are established and adjusted annually using the change in the California per capita income as specified in California Education Code Section 69432.7(k). Parental income is used for dependent applicants and student income is used for independent students.
2. Asset Ceilings - Asset ceilings are established and adjusted annually using the change in the California per capita income as specified in California Education Code Section 69432.7(k). Parental assets are used for dependent applicants and students assets are used for independent students.
3. Financial Need – California Education Code Section 69432.9(b)(2) defines financial need as the difference between the student’s cost of attendance as determined by the Commission and the “expected family contribution.” Because the Cal Grant program uses federal methodology as the basis of determining financial need, federal exclusions to reported income such as federal work study are observed.
4. Unmet Need – California Education Code Section 69432.9(b)(3)(A), specifies the minimum financial need required for receipt of an initial Cal Grant A or Cal Grant C award. It shall not be less than the maximum annual award value for the applicable institution, plus an additional \$1,500 of financial need. California Education Code Section 69432.9(b)(3)(B) sets the minimum financial need required for a Cal Grant B award at \$700.

Applicants who meet all of the Common Edits, Program Edits, and Financial Edits move next into the scoring phase for the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Those applicants who do not pass the Financial Edits are filtered out and notified of their ineligible status.

Selection Criteria

Since the pool of eligible applicants far exceeds the statutory limit, the Commission must prioritize or rank each applicant on like criteria. California Education Code Section 69437(c)(1) requires the Commission to establish selection criteria for Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards that give special consideration to disadvantaged students, taking into account those financial, educational, cultural, language, home, community, environmental, and other conditions that hamper a student’s access to, and ability to persist in, postsecondary education programs.

The Commission uses a scoring system for the Competitive Cal Grant Program to evaluate the socio-economic status of each eligible applicant. Starting in 2016-17, the Commission worked with The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) to develop a new scoring rubric to better reach the most disadvantaged applicants. Scoring categories now included Household Status (whether independent student is a single parent), Student Education / Access Equalizer (if student had a disadvantaged high school experience or submitted a GED test score), Disadvantaged / Socioeconomic Indicators (received means-tested benefits or student/parent is a dislocated worker),

and Family / Environment Indicators (foster care, orphan/ward of the court, or homelessness).

The scoring rubric was changed in the 2018-19 award year due to an issue identified whereby not all students saw the question about means-tested benefits on the FAFSA as a result of skip logic in the application. Rather than continuing to have those students miss out on additional points, the category was removed from the scoring matrix and the points were redistributed to other categories.

The maximum points for the scoring are displayed in the following table.

Scoring Categories	Maximum Points
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	250
Family Income & Household Size	250
Grade Point Average (GPA)	100
Household Status (Single Independent Applicants Only)	100
Student Education / Access Equalizer	100
Parent Education Level (Either Parent)	100
Family / Environment Indicators	100
Total Points	1,000

Cutoff Scores

To establish a cutoff score for students who will receive a Competitive Cal Grant A or Cal Grant B award, the Commission sets the score at a number that is closest to the number of awards authorized for each competition.

Students who scored above or within the cutoff score are offered an award and notified of their Cal Grant eligibility. Those students who fell below the cutoff score are considered to be eligible non-offered awardees. The cutoff scores for each competition for the past three academic years are displayed in the following table.

Academic Year	March	September
2019-20	576	607
2020-21	567	594
2021-22	568	N/A

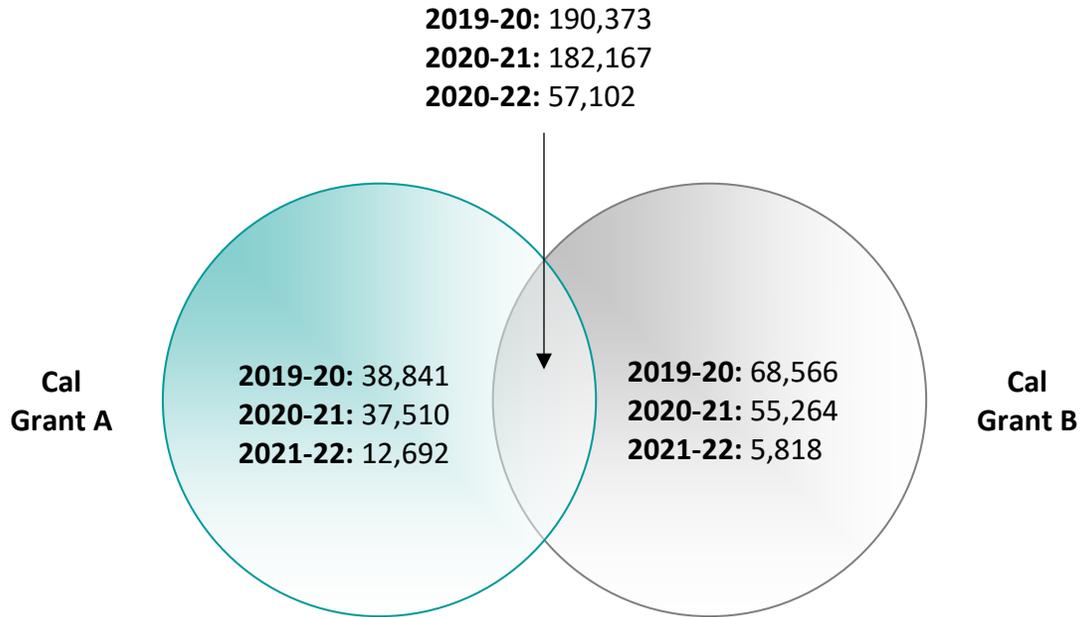
Note: Scoring based on a 1000-point method for all three academic years.

Eligible Applicants

Display 1 illustrates the number of eligible applicants for the March and September Competitions, by Cal Grant program (Cal Grant A and B) and by academic year. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for more than one Cal Grant program are referred to as overlap applicants. For instance, in 2019-20 and 2020-21, around 200,000

students annually met the 3.0 merit requirement needed for a Cal Grant A and were from a very low-income family and so they qualified for a Cal Grant B. Offered awardees are placed in the program that will give them the best financial benefit.

Display 1: Competitive Cal Grant Eligibility Pool



Total number of eligible students

2019-20: 297,781
2020-21: 274,941
2021-22: 75,612

SECTION III – COMPETITIVE CAL GRANT OFFERED AWARDEES

Beginning in 2019-20, California Education Code Section 69437(b) authorized the Commission to grant 41,000 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards each academic year. One-half of the awards are distributed during the March Competition and the remaining awards are distributed during the September Competition. This limit was decreased to 13,000 in 2021-22 following the creation of the California Community College Entitlement program which effectively removed the need for any California Community College students to compete. All eligible applicants are ranked by the score generated by the selection criteria and sorted in descending order. Beginning with those in the 1,000-point cohort, applicants are selected within each cohort until all of the awards are allocated.

California Education Code Section 69437(b)(3) stipulates that the Commission shall make any awards not distributed during the initial allocation to as many eligible applicants as possible, without exceeding an annual cumulative total of 41,000 paid awards in 2019-20 and 2020-21, and 13,000 paid awards in 2021-22. It also specifies that the undistributed awards shall be offered to eligible applicants with the lowest expected family contribution and highest academic merit.

MARCH COMPETITION

The Commission offered 25,824 awards in the 2020-21 March Competition. This was a 3.1 percent decrease from the 26,649 awards offered during the 2019-20 March Competition. Following the reduction of available awards due to the new entitlement program, the Commission offered 15,254 awards in 2021-22. Since only about 80 percent of the March Competitive awards offered are funded or taken by the offered awardees in their first year of the Cal Grant Program, the Commission offers more awards than the authorized number with the expectation that the number of awards paid would not exceed the statutory limit.

Offered Awardees by Program

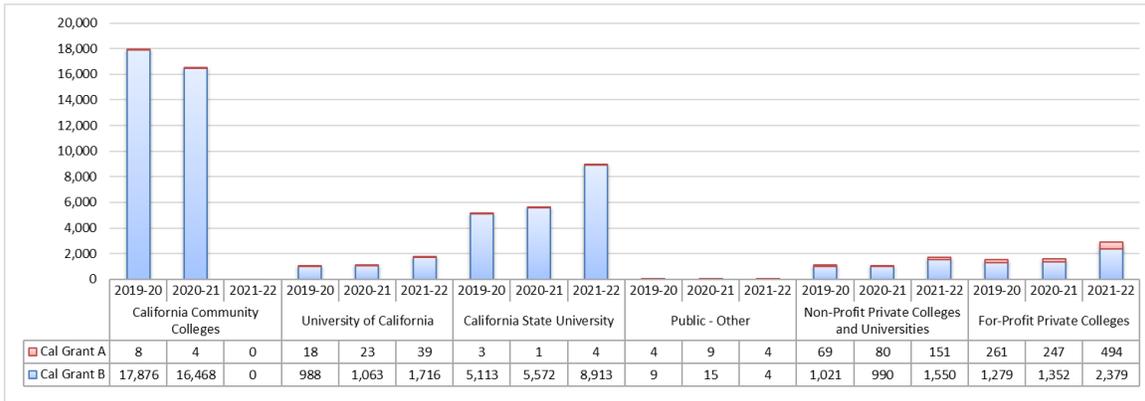
Since the 2016-17 award year, over 95 percent of the March Competitive Cal Grant offered awardees received a Cal Grant B award. Over time, the Cal Grant B award offers students a greater financial benefit than the Cal Grant A award, except for those attending University of California.

Offered Awardees by Segment

Display 2 illustrates the segmental distribution of new offered awardees from the March Competition for the latest three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program¹. As in previous years, California Community Colleges continue to account for the largest number of offered awardees. In 2020-21, 16,468 or 63.8 percent of the March Competitive offered awardees indicated that they would attend a California Community College. In 2019-20, 17,876 or 67.1 percent of the March Competitive offered awardees

indicated that they would attend a California Community College. Additionally, California State Universities are the second choice for the March Competitive offered awardees. In 2020-21, 5,572 or 21.6 percent of the offered awardees indicated that they would attend a California State University, and in 2019-20, 5,116 or 19.2 percent of the offered awardees indicated they would attend a California State University. Following the effective removal of California Community College students from the Competitive pool, in 2021-22, 8,913 or 58.5 percent of the offered awardees indicated that they would attend a California State University, making it the new majority segment.

Display 2: Segmental Distribution of March Competitive Offered Awardees

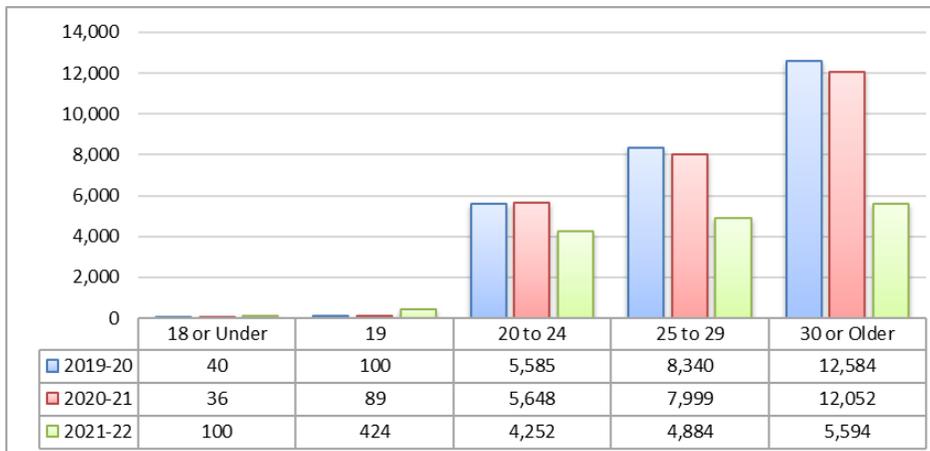


¹ This is calculated using the first eligible Cal Grant participating institution listed on the financial aid application (FAFSA).

Offered Awardees by Age

Display 3 illustrates the age distribution of new offered awardees for the March Competition. Over 77 percent of the offered awardees were age 25 years or older in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 award years. The share of older students decreased to 68.7 percent in 2021-22.

Display 3: Age Distribution of March Competitive Offered Awardees

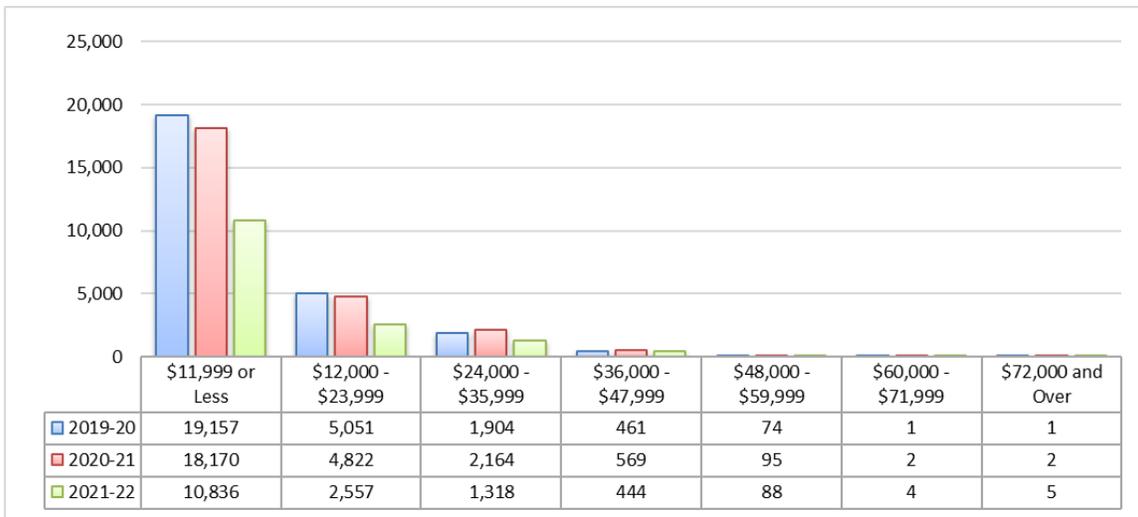


Offered Awardees by Income

Display 4 illustrates that in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, new offered awardees from families with incomes of less than \$12,000 continue to account for the largest number of awards. Offered awardees with incomes less than \$12,000 annual income accounted for 10,836 or 71.0 percent of the 2021-22 March Competitive awards. Offered awardees with incomes of less than \$12,000 accounted for 18,170 or 70.4 percent of the 2020-21 and 19,157 or 71.9 percent of the 2019-20 March Competitive awards. This compares to around 50 percent in those academic years immediately prior to the change in the scoring matrix in 2016-17.

The second largest category continued to be comprised of new offered awardees with incomes of \$12,000 to \$23,999. These offered awardees accounted for 16.8 percent of the 2021-22 March Competitive awards. As in past years, new offered awardees with incomes of more than \$24,000 accounted for the fewest number of awards. In 2021-22, these offered awardees accounted for 12.2 percent of the March Competitive awards.

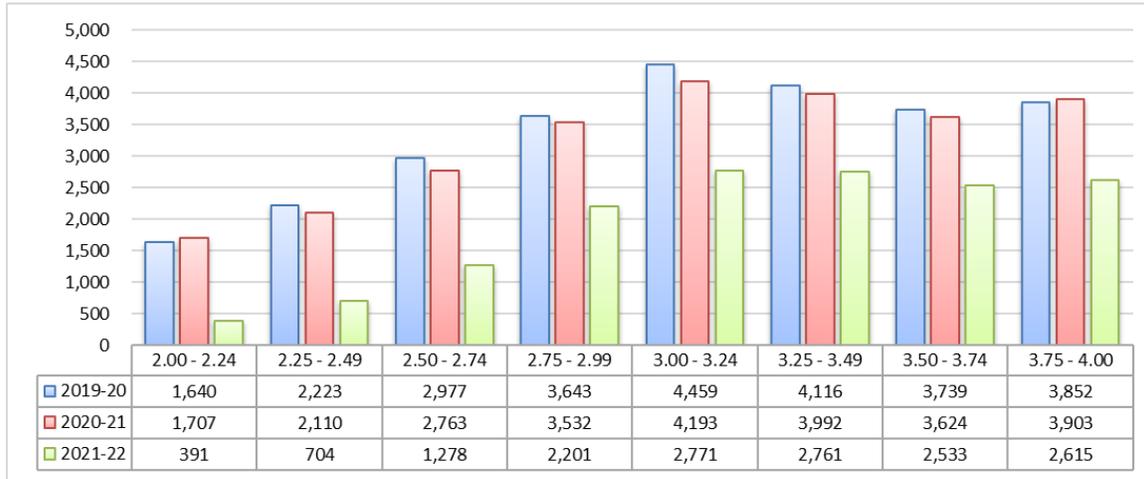
Display 4: Income Distribution of March Competitive Offered Awardees



Offered Awardees by Grade Point Average (GPA)

Display 5 illustrates the academic achievement of new offered awardees during the past three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher accounted for over 14 percent of March Competitive offered awardees. Additionally, in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, as in previous years, the majority of students had a GPA of 3.00 or higher. For instance, in 2021-22, 10,680 offered awardees, or 70 percent, had a GPA of 3.00 or higher. Over 60 percent had a GPA of 3.00 or higher in both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 award years.

Display 5: GPA Distribution of March Competitive Offered Awardees



Participation Patterns

The Cal Grant Act requires that the Commission review the Competitive Cal Grant Program to gain a better understanding of early participation patterns. For this report, the Commission looked at the number of March Competitive Cal Grant paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported to and reconciled by the Commission (paid) against the number of offered awardees. The payment transaction may have occurred during the year the applicant was offered a Cal Grant award, for one or more subsequent year(s), or for all three years.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 look at the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 March Competitive Cal Grant offered awardees by the educational level in which they were initially offered an award. The educational level is the self-reported grade level the offered awardee indicates on the FAFSA.

2019-20 March Competition

Table 1 provides information about the 2019-20 March Competitive offered awardees who were paid in their first and/or second and/or third year(s) in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Overall, 53 percent of the Cal Grant A offered awardees and 81 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In their second year, 42 percent of Cal Grant A offered awardees and 35 percent of Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid. During their third year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 22 percent of the Cal Grant A offered awardees and 14 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid.

Table 1
2019-20 March Competitive Offered Awardees
Paid in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22
by Initial Educational Level

	2019-20 Offered Awardees		Paid Recipients in 2019-20			Paid Recipients in 2020-21			Paid Recipients in 2021-22		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
Cal Grant A											
Freshman	273	1.0%	54	0.3%	20%	58	0.6%	21%	24	0.7%	9%
Sophomore	35	0.1%	51	0.2%	146%	50	0.5%	143%	46	1.3%	131%
Junior	40	0.2%	55	0.3%	138%	40	0.4%	99%	9	0.2%	22%
Senior	15	0.1%	33	0.2%	220%	5	0.0%	30%	1	0.0%	8%
Total	363	1.4%	193	0.9%	53%	152	1.6%	42%	80	2.2%	22%
Cal Grant B											
Freshman	4,867	18.3%	1,827	8.6%	38%	1,478	16.0%	30%	667	18.4%	14%
Sophomore	14,173	53.2%	7,791	36.5%	55%	5,188	56.0%	37%	2,523	69.5%	18%
Junior	3,244	12.2%	3,923	18.4%	121%	2,019	21.8%	62%	344	9.5%	11%
Senior	4,002	15.0%	7,623	35.7%	190%	427	4.6%	11%	16	0.4%	0%
Total	26,286	98.6%	21,164	99.1%	81%	9,112	98.4%	35%	3,550	97.8%	14%
Cal Grant A & B											
Freshman	5,140	19.3%	1,881	8.8%	37%	1,536	16.6%	30%	691	19.0%	13%
Sophomore	14,208	53.3%	7,842	36.7%	55%	5,238	56.5%	37%	2,569	70.8%	18%
Junior	3,284	12.3%	3,978	18.6%	121%	2,059	22.2%	63%	353	9.7%	11%
Senior	4,017	15.1%	7,656	35.8%	191%	431	4.7%	11%	17	0.5%	0%
Total	26,649	100.0%	21,357	100.0%	80%	9,264	100.0%	35%	3,630	100.0%	14%

See notes at end of Table 3.

2020-21 March Competition

Table 2 provides information about the 2020-21 March Competitive offered awardees who were paid in their first and/or second year(s) in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. During their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 50 percent of the Cal Grant A and 77 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid. Also, 44 percent of the Cal Grant A offered awardees and 32 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid during their second year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

Table 2
2020-21 March Competitive Offered Awardees
Paid in 2020-21 and 2021-22
by Initial Educational Level

	2020-21 Offered Awardees		Paid Recipients in 2020-21			Paid Recipients in 2021-22		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
Cal Grant A								
Freshman	286	1.1%	66	0.3%	23%	54	0.6%	19%
Sophomore	35	0.1%	42	0.2%	120%	38	0.5%	109%
Junior	28	0.1%	48	0.2%	171%	42	0.5%	150%
Senior	15	0.1%	26	0.1%	173%	25	0.3%	167%
Total	364	1.4%	182	0.9%	50%	159	1.9%	44%
Cal Grant B								
Freshman	4,767	18.5%	1,621	8.2%	34%	1,035	12.4%	22%
Sophomore	13,007	50.4%	6,719	34.1%	52%	3,548	42.4%	27%
Junior	3,326	12.9%	3,849	19.5%	116%	2,136	25.5%	64%
Senior	4,360	16.9%	7,345	37.3%	168%	1,483	17.7%	34%
Total	25,460	98.6%	19,534	99.1%	77%	8,202	98.1%	32%
Cal Grant A & B								
Freshman	5,053	19.6%	1,687	8.6%	33%	1,089	13.0%	22%
Sophomore	13,042	50.5%	6,761	34.3%	52%	3,586	42.9%	27%
Junior	3,354	13.0%	3,897	19.8%	116%	2,178	26.0%	65%
Senior	4,375	16.9%	7,371	37.4%	168%	1,508	18.0%	34%
Total	25,824	100.0%	19,716	100.0%	76%	8,361	100.0%	32%

See notes at end of Table 3.

2021-22 March Competition

Table 3 provides information about the 2021-22 March Competitive offered awardees who were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. During their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 43 percent of the Cal Grant A offered awardees and 87 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid.

Table 3
2021-22 March Competitive Offered Awardee
Paid in 2021-22
by Initial Education Level

	2021-22 Offered Awardees		Paid Recipients in 2021-22		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid
Cal Grant A					
Freshman	591	3.9%	90	0.7%	15%
Sophomore	46	0.3%	79	0.6%	172%
Junior	38	0.2%	84	0.6%	221%
Senior	17	0.1%	45	0.3%	265%
Total	692	4.5%	298	2.3%	43%
Cal Grant B					
Freshman	1,056	6.9%	354	2.7%	34%
Sophomore	1,864	12.2%	1,049	8.1%	56%
Junior	4,950	32.5%	3,855	29.7%	78%
Senior	6,692	43.9%	7,442	57.3%	111%
Total	14,562	95.5%	12,700	97.7%	87%
Cal Grant A & B					
Freshman	1,647	10.8%	444	3.4%	27%
Sophomore	1,910	12.5%	1,128	8.7%	59%
Junior	4,988	32.7%	3,939	30.3%	79%
Senior	6,709	44.0%	7,487	57.6%	112%
Total	15,254	100.0%	12,998	100.0%	85%

Notes for Tables 1, 2, and 3:

1 Source of the educational level is the self-reported grade level the student indicates on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

2 "2019-20 Offered Awardees" reflect the number of competitive offered awardees notified as of December 27, 2019.

3 "2020-21 Offered Awardees" reflect the number of competitive offered awardees notified as of December 25, 2020.

4 "2021-22 Offered Awardees" reflect the number of competitive offered awardees notified as of January 28, 2022.

5 "Paid Recipients in 2019-20" reflects those paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 25, 2020.

6 "Paid Recipients in 2020-21" reflects those paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 17, 2021.

7 "Paid Recipients in 2021-22" reflects those paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 16, 2022.

SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

The prior Cal Grant B program required that a majority of all Cal Grant B awards be given to students planning to attend a California Community College. The Cal Grant Act continued this requirement by establishing a second competition limited to community college students with a filing deadline of September 2nd each year. The September Competition was eliminated started in 2021-22 following the creation of the California Community College Entitlement program that awards all eligible applicants.

The Commission offered 24,930 awards in the 2020-21 September Competition. This was a 3.4 percent increase from the 24,108 awards offered in the 2019-20 September Competition. Since less than 80 percent of the September Competitive awards offered were funded or taken by the offered awardees in their first year of the Cal Grant Program, the Commission offered more awards than the authorized number with the expectation that the number of awards paid would not exceed the statutory limit.

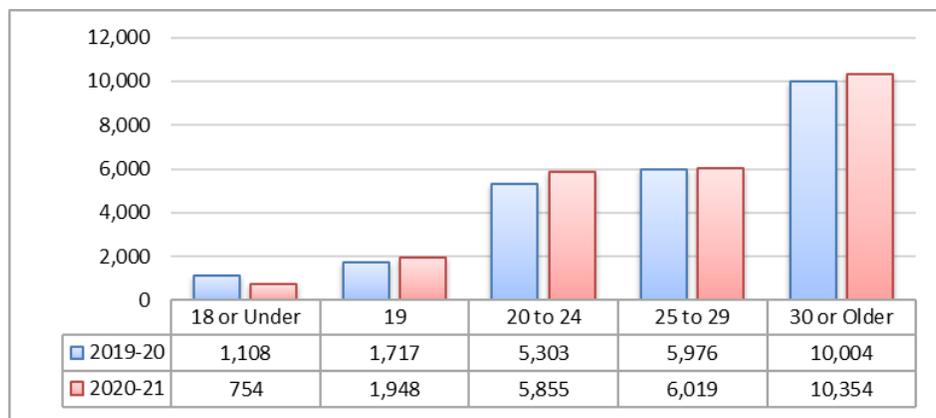
Offered Awardees by Program

As in the past, students offered a Cal Grant A award that are attending a California Community College will have their award held in reserve until they transfer to a tuition or fee charging institution. This is due to the low fees charged at the community colleges and the availability of a Board of Governor’s fee waiver to all financially eligible students. Since 2016-17, nearly 100 percent of September Competitive Cal Grant offered awardees received a Cal Grant B award.

Offered Awardees by Age

Display 6 illustrates the age distribution of new offered awardees for the September Competition. In 2019-20 and 2020-21, over 65 percent of the offered awardees were age 25 years or older.

Display 6: Age Distribution of September Competitive Offered Awardees



Offered Awardees by Income

Display 7 illustrates that for all three years, new offered awardees from families with incomes of less than \$12,000 continued to account for the largest number of awards. Offered awardees with incomes of less than \$12,000 accounted for 16,610 or 66.6 percent of the 2020-21 September Competitive awards, and 17,171 or 71.2 percent of the 2019-20 September Competitive awards. The second largest category continued to be comprised of new offered awardees with incomes of \$12,000 to \$23,999. For instance, in 2020-21 these families accounted for 5,225 or 21.0 percent of the September Competitive awards. As in past years, offered awardees with incomes of more than \$24,000 accounted for the fewest number of awards. In 2020-21, these families accounted for 12.4 percent of the September Competitive awards.

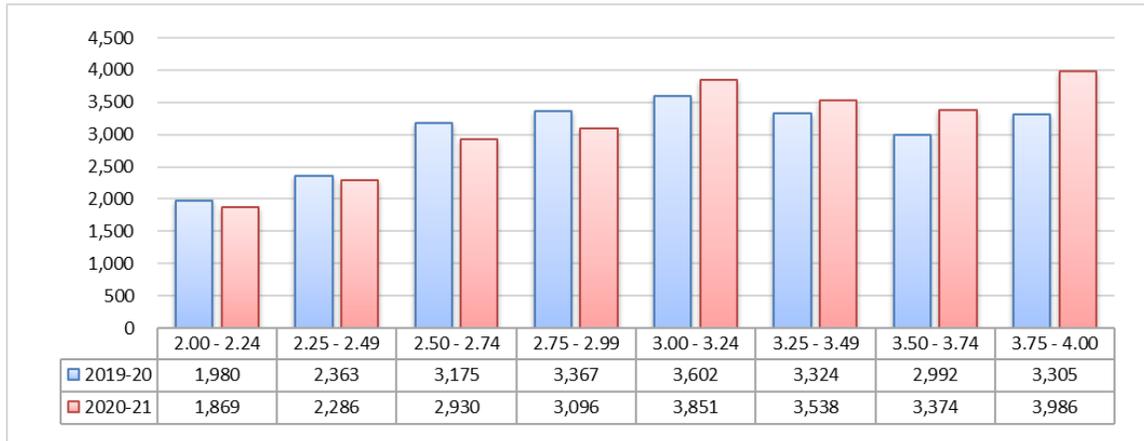
Display 7: Income Distribution of September Competitive Offered Awardees



Offered Awardees by Grade Point Average (GPA)

Display 8 illustrates the academic achievement of new offered awardees during the past three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. For all three years, students with a GPA of 3.00 or higher accounted for most of the September Competitive awards. For instance, in 2020-21, 9,620 offered awardees or 59.2 percent had a GPA of 3.00 or higher. The number of offered awardees with a GPA below 2.50 accounted for less than 19 percent of awards from 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Display 8: GPA Distribution of September Competitive Offered Awardees



Participation Patterns

Using the same method as for the March Competition, the Commission looked at the number of September Competitive Cal Grant paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported to and reconciled by the Commission (paid) against the number of offered awardees. The payment transaction may have occurred during the year the applicant was offered a Cal Grant award, or for one or more subsequent year(s).

Tables 4, 5, and 6 display the 2019-20 and 2020-21 September Competitive Cal Grant offered awardees by the educational level in which they were initially offered an award. The educational level is the self-reported grade level the offered awardee indicates on the FAFSA.

2019-20 September Competition

Table 4 provides information about the 2019-20 September Competitive offered awardees who were paid in their first and/or second and/or third year(s) in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. In 2019-20, 20 percent of the Cal Grant A and 76 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Additionally, 80 percent of the Cal Grant A and 41 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid during their second year. During their third year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program, 136 percent of the Cal Grant A and 22 percent of Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid.

Table 4
2019-20 September Competitive Offered Awardees
Paid in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22
by Initial Educational Level

	2019-20 Offered Awardees		Paid Recipients in 2019-20			Paid Recipients in 2020-21			Paid Recipients in 2021-22		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
Cal Grant A											
Freshman	30	0.1%	3	0.0%	10%	16	0.2%	53%	21	0.4%	68%
Sophomore	13	0.1%	2	0.0%	15%	19	0.2%	146%	39	0.7%	304%
Junior	1	0.0%	2	0.0%	200%	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Senior	0	0.0%	2	0.0%	>100%	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Total	44	0.2%	9	0.0%	20%	35	0.4%	80%	60	1.1%	136%
Cal Grant B											
Freshman	10,730	44.5%	7,689	42.0%	72%	4,922	49.3%	46%	2,686	49.1%	25%
Sophomore	12,777	53.0%	10,069	55.0%	79%	4,858	48.7%	38%	2,663	48.6%	21%
Junior	387	1.6%	394	2.2%	102%	127	1.3%	33%	60	1.1%	15%
Senior	170	0.7%	133	0.7%	78%	40	0.4%	23%	5	0.1%	3%
Total	24,064	99.8%	18,285	100.0%	76%	9,947	99.6%	41%	5,414	98.9%	22%
Cal Grant A & B											
Freshman	10,760	44.6%	7,692	42.0%	71%	4,939	49.5%	46%	2,707	49.5%	25%
Sophomore	12,790	53.1%	10,071	55.1%	79%	4,877	48.9%	38%	2,702	49.4%	21%
Junior	388	1.6%	396	2.2%	102%	127	1.3%	33%	60	1.1%	15%
Senior	170	0.7%	135	0.7%	79%	40	0.4%	23%	5	0.1%	3%
Total	24,108	100.0%	18,294	100.0%	76%	9,982	100.0%	41%	5,474	100.0%	23%

See notes at end of Table 5.

2020-21 September Competition

Table 5 provides information about the 2020-21 September Competitive offered awardees who were paid in their first and/or second year(s) in the Competitive Program. In 2020-21, 6 percent of the Cal Grant A and 77 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid during their first year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Also, 77 percent of the Cal Grant A and 42 percent of the Cal Grant B offered awardees were paid during their second year in the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

Table 5
2020-21 September Competitive Offered Awardees
Paid in 2020-21 and 2021-22
by Initial Educational Level

	2020-21 Offered Awardees		Paid Recipients in 2020-21			Paid Recipients in 2021-22		
	#	%	#	%	% Paid	#	%	% Paid
Cal Grant A								
Freshman	40	0.2%	1	0.0%	3%	12	0.1%	30%
Sophomore	26	0.1%	3	0.0%	12%	29	0.3%	112%
Junior	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-	10	0.1%	>100%
Senior	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-	0	0.0%	-
Total	66	0.3%	4	0.0%	6%	51	0.5%	77%
Cal Grant B								
Freshman	10,362	41.6%	7,475	39.1%	72%	4,215	39.7%	41%
Sophomore	13,947	55.9%	11,090	58.0%	80%	5,418	51.1%	39%
Junior	376	1.5%	400	2.1%	106%	845	8.0%	225%
Senior	179	0.7%	153	0.8%	85%	76	0.7%	42%
Total	24,864	99.7%	19,118	100.0%	77%	10,554	99.5%	42%
Cal Grant A & B								
Freshman	10,402	41.7%	7,476	39.1%	72%	4,227	39.9%	41%
Sophomore	13,973	56.0%	11,093	58.0%	79%	5,447	51.4%	39%
Junior	376	1.5%	400	2.1%	106%	855	8.1%	227%
Senior	179	0.7%	153	0.8%	85%	76	0.7%	42%
Total	24,930	100.0%	19,122	100.0%	77%	10,605	100.0%	43%

Notes for Tables 4 and 5:

1 Source of the educational level is the self-reported grade level the student indicates on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

2 "2019-20 Offered Awardees" reflect the number of competitive offered awardees notified as of December 27, 2019.

3 "2020-21 Offered Awardees" reflect the number of competitive offered awardees notified as of December 25, 2020.

4 "Paid Recipients in 2019-20" reflects those paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 25, 2020.

5 "Paid Recipients in 2020-21" reflects those paid recipients for whom at least one payment transaction was reported and reconciled as of September 17, 2021.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW OFFERED AWARDEES

Table 7 illustrates the Average Income, GPA, Family Size and Age of the new offered awardees for the past three academic years of the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Program. Awards were offered to students who demonstrated merit along with income constraints and were older, late-entry students who do not have access to the Entitlement Cal Grant Program.

Table 8 shows the highest school completed by a parent of the new Competitive Cal Grant A and B offered awardees for the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 academic years. In 2021-22, 63 percent of the Cal Grant A and B offered awardees had a parent who completed high school or less and 23 percent had a parent who completed college or beyond.

Table 7

Average Income, GPA, Family Size and Age of New Competitive Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees

Academic Year	Program		Competition		
			March	September	Total
2019-20	Cal Grant A Offered Awardees		363	44	407
		Average Income	\$13,540	\$27,890	\$15,091
		Average GPA	3.27	3.43	3.28
		Average Family Size	2.7	4.5	2.9
		Average Age	31	24	31
	Cal Grant B Offered Awardees		26,286	24,064	50,350
		Average Income	\$7,991	\$8,128	\$8,057
		Average GPA	3.12	3.06	3.09
		Average Family Size	2.4	2.7	2.5
		Average Age	32	30	31
	Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees		26,649	24,108	50,757
		Average Income	\$8,067	\$8,164	\$8,113
	Average GPA	3.12	3.06	3.10	
	Average Family Size	2.4	2.7	2.5	
	Average Age	32	30	31	
2020-21	Cal Grant A Offered Awardees		364	66	430
		Average Income	\$13,424	\$22,051	\$14,748
		Average GPA	3.25	3.35	3.27
		Average Family Size	2.7	4.3	3.0
		Average Age	30	23	29
	Cal Grant B Offered Awardees		25,460	24,864	50,324
		Average Income	\$8,555	\$9,426	\$8,985
		Average GPA	3.13	3.11	3.12
		Average Family Size	2.3	2.8	2.5
		Average Age	32	30	31
	Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees		25,824	24,930	50,754
		Average Income	\$8,623	\$9,460	\$9,034
	Average GPA	3.13	3.11	3.12	
	Average Family Size	2.3	2.8	2.5	
	Average Age	32	30	31	
2021-22	Cal Grant A Offered Awardees		692		692
		Average Income	\$16,125		\$16,125
		Average GPA	3.26		3.26
		Average Family Size	2.7		2.7
		Average Age	30		30
	Cal Grant B Offered Awardees		14,562		14,562
		Average Income	\$8,578		\$8,578
		Average GPA	3.24		3.24
		Average Family Size	2.1		2.1
		Average Age	29		29
	Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees		15,254		15,254
		Average Income	\$8,921		\$8,921
	Average GPA	3.24		3.24	
	Average Family Size	2.1		2.1	
	Average Age	29		29	

Table 8
Highest School Completed by Parent of Competitive Offered Awardees

Academic Year	Program	Competition		
		March	September	Total
2019-20	Cal Grant A Offered Awardees	363	44	407
	High School or less	52%	77%	55%
	College or beyond	31%	12%	29%
	Unknown	17%	11%	16%
	Cal Grant B Offered Awardees	26,286	24,064	50,350
	High School or less	65%	66%	65%
	College or beyond	19%	18%	18%
	Unknown	16%	17%	16%
	Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees	26,649	24,108	50,757
	High School or less	65%	66%	65%
College or beyond	19%	18%	18%	
Unknown	16%	17%	16%	
2020-21	Cal Grant A Offered Awardees	364	66	430
	High School or less	56%	73%	59%
	College or beyond	27%	12%	25%
	Unknown	17%	15%	16%
	Cal Grant B Offered Awardees	25,460	24,864	50,324
	High School or less	64%	64%	64%
	College or beyond	19%	19%	19%
	Unknown	17%	17%	17%
	Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees	25,824	24,930	50,754
	High School or less	64%	64%	64%
College or beyond	19%	19%	19%	
Unknown	17%	17%	17%	
2021-22	Cal Grant A Offered Awardees	692		692
	High School or less	57%		57%
	College or beyond	30%		30%
	Unknown	13%		13%
	Cal Grant B Offered Awardees	14,562		14,562
	High School or less	63%		63%
	College or beyond	23%		23%
	Unknown	14%		14%
	Cal Grant A & B Offered Awardees	15,254		15,254
	High School or less	63%		63%
College or beyond	23%		23%	
Unknown	14%		14%	

SECTION IV- ELIGIBLE NON-OFFERED AWARDEES

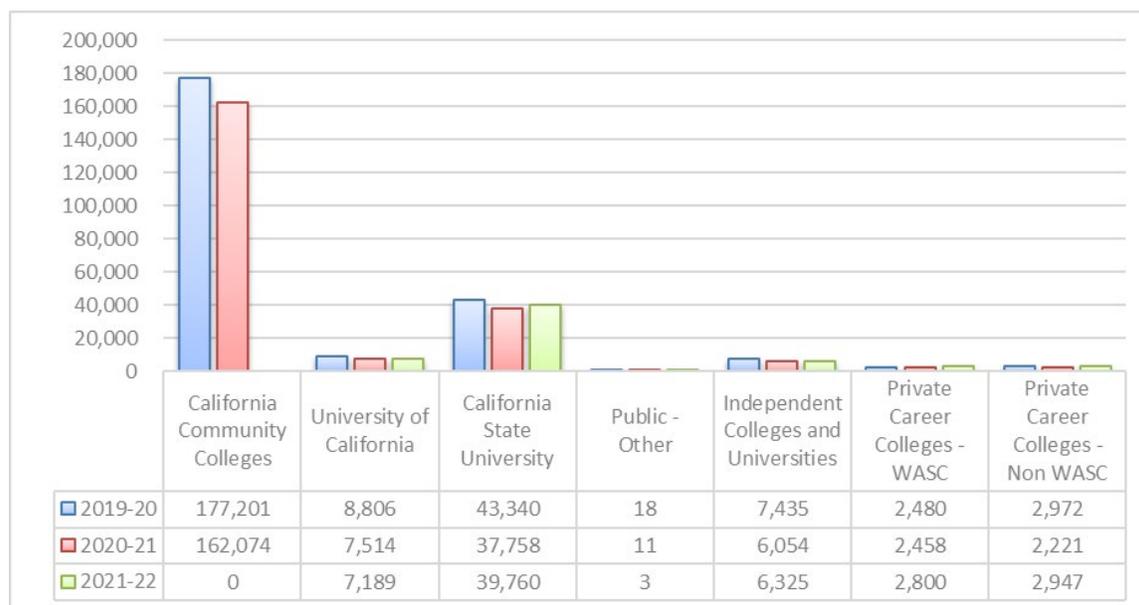
Eligible non-offered awardees are those applicants, from the March and September Competitions, who successfully passed the common, program, and financial edits (described in Section II) but did not receive an award because their scores were below the cutoff point.

The displays and tables below show characteristics of the eligible non-offered awardees in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22. The number of eligible non-offered awardees decreased 75.6 percent from 242,252 in 2019-20 to 59,024 in 2021-22 following the reallocation of many applicants from the Competitive pool to the California Community College Entitlement program.

Eligible Non-Offered Awardees by Segment

Display 9 illustrates the segmental distribution of the eligible non-offered awardees for the latest three years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. From 2019-20 to 2021-22, the California Community Colleges had a decrease of 100 percent; the University of California had a decrease of 18.4 percent; the California State University had a decrease of 8.3 percent; the Independent Colleges and Universities had a decrease of 14.9 percent; and For-Profit Private Colleges had an increase of 5.4 percent.

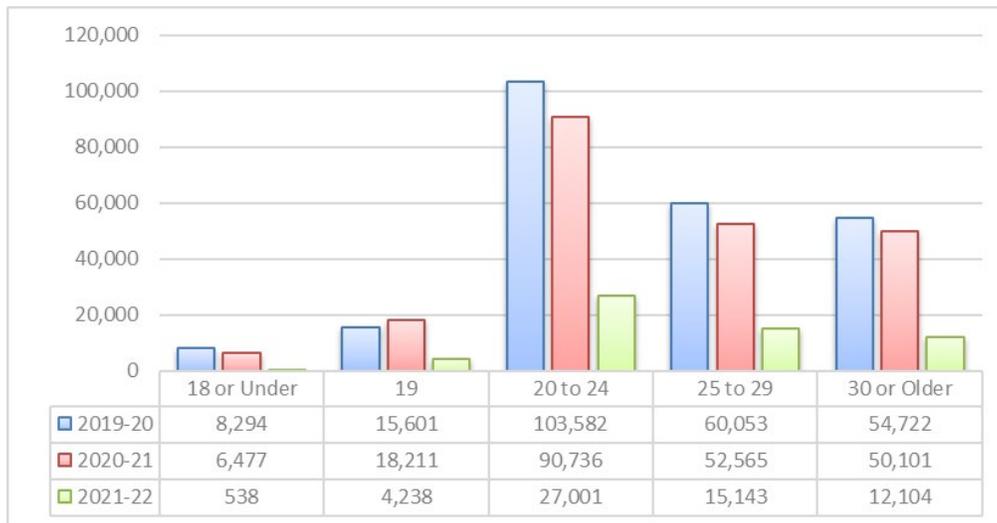
Display 9: Segmental Distribution of Eligible Non-Offered Awardees



Eligible Non-Offered Awardees by Age

Display 10 illustrates the age distribution of eligible non-offered awardees from 2019-20 to 2021-22. In all three award years, over 46 percent of all eligible non-offered awardees were 25 years of age or older.

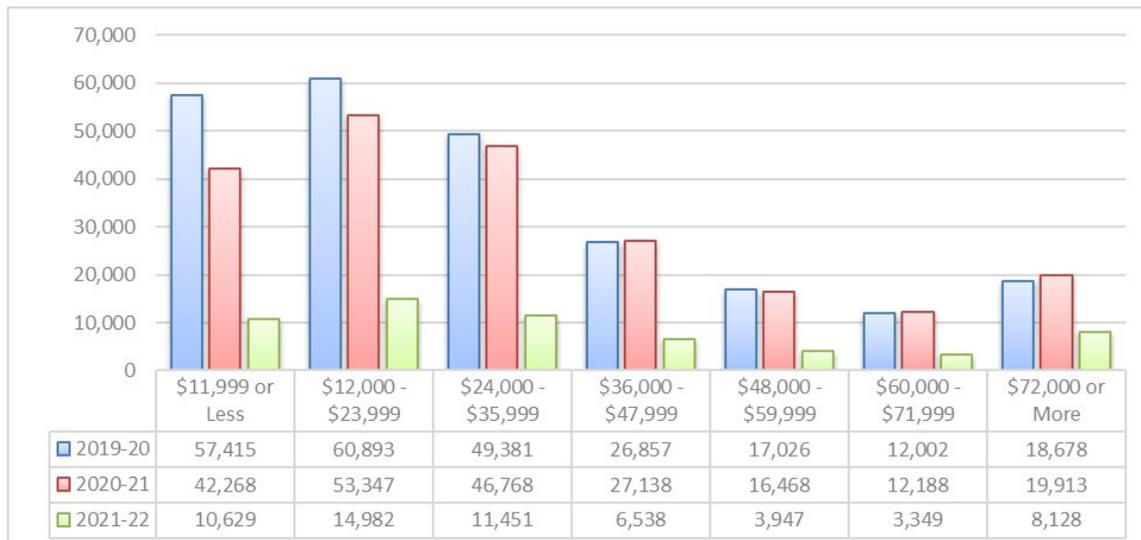
Display 10: Age Distribution of Eligible Non-Offered Awardees



Eligible Non-Offered Awardees by Income

Display 11 illustrates the income distribution of eligible non-offered awardees from 2019-20 to 2021-22. The proportion of eligible non-offered awardees who earned less than \$12,000 per year decreased each year, from 23.7 percent in 2019-20 to 18.0 percent in 2021-22.

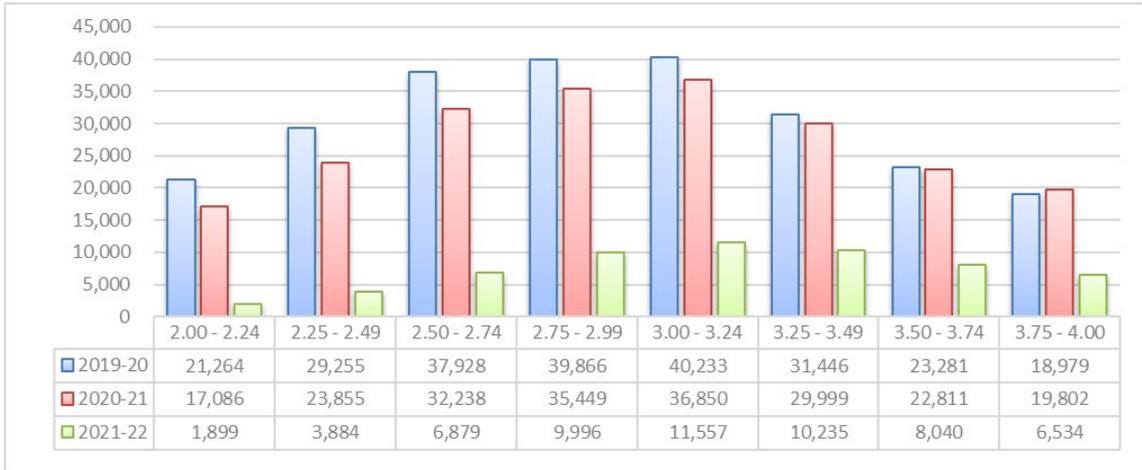
Display 11: Income Distribution of Eligible Non-Offered Awardees



Eligible Non-Offered Awardees by Grade Point Average (GPA)

Display 12 illustrates the GPA distribution of those students who were eligible but, due to the number of awards, were not offered an award. In 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, over 45 percent of all eligible non-offered awardees had a GPA of 3.00 or higher.

Display 12: GPA Distribution of Eligible Non-Offered Awardees



Characteristics of Eligible Non-Offered Awardees

Table 9 presents the Average Income, GPA, Family Size and Age of eligible non-offered awardees for the past three academic years of the Competitive Cal Grant Program. Table 10 shows the highest school completed by the father and/or mother of the eligible non-offered awardees for the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 award years.

Table 9

Average Income, GPA, Family Size & Age of Competitive Cal Grant Eligible Non-Offered Awardees

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Eligible Non-Offered Awardees	242,252	218,090	59,024
Average Income	\$29,959	\$32,642	\$35,804
Average GPA	2.96	3.00	3.13
Average Family Size	2.7	2.8	2.4
Average Age	26	26	26

Table 10

Highest School Completed by Parent of Eligible Non-Offered Awardees

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Eligible Non-Offered Awardees	242,252	218,090	59,024
High School or less	46%	45%	41%
College or beyond	44%	44%	51%
Unknown	10%	10%	8%

SECTION V- CONCLUSION

The Competitive Cal Grant A and B Award Program has been an integral part of the Cal Grant Program, California's historic commitment to provide educational opportunity by ensuring both student access to and selection of an institution of higher education for students with financial need.

Despite the increase to the statutory limit on the number of new Competitive Cal Grant awards in 2019-20 to 41,000, the number of applicants who met all eligibility criteria but did not receive an award was still over 240,000 in 2019-20. This count decreased to less than 60,000 in 2021-22 due to the creation of the California Community College Entitlement program, which has allowed the Commission to serve more students than ever before.