

Item 7

(Action Item)

Consideration of California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) grant proposal template for 2023-24 fiscal year

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on a new Request for Grant Proposal (Grant Proposal) document that would replace the Annual Program Plan that the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) projects submit prior to entering a contract with the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the adoption of the new Cal-SOAP grant proposal template.

BACKGROUND:

The Cal-SOAP was created to increase accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for students who are from low-income families, first in their families to attend college, students who are from schools or geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or low college participation rates, and students who are unhoused youth in various communities throughout California. Every year, Cal-SOAP projects plan activities and services that support students in college access, admission, and financial aid completion. Considering California's adoption of a universal requirement that all high school seniors apply for financial aid, Cal-SOAP has become more critical in supporting students and their families in completing financial aid applications.

This item will provide an overview of the adoption of the 2023 Cal-SOAP Request for Grant Proposal. The Cal-SOAP Grant Proposal replaces the Cal-SOAP Annual Program Plan that was submitted annually prior to executing a contract with the Commission. The Grant Proposal aligns with Senate Bill (SB) 737 (Limón), which modernized the program to serve the needs of today's students. SB 737 refocused the program goals and objectives to align with statewide goals of advancing financial aid literacy and education.

The Grant Proposal focuses on governance, program activities and services, background information, consortium operations, outcome measures, sustainability and partnerships, and budget. The goal of the Grant Proposal is to further align statewide Cal-SOAP services using clearly defined program objectives and student outcome measures. Additional changes and updates will be made to the Cal-SOAP contracts and procedure manuals to reflect a grant-based funding model with new practices that streamline

California Student Aid Commission

processes including advanced payments, quarterly budget assessments, one year-contracts, and continuous development of student level data reporting.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

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ATTACHMENT(S):

2023–24 Cal-SOAP Request for Grant Proposals