



# Update on recommendations and actions from the CalFresh and Undocumented reports (Information)

Sept. 6, 2023





# Commission Workgroups

## Access to Proper Nutrition Equals College Success: Making CalFresh Work for Students (2022)

Released in February 2022, the comprehensive report included [state & federal recommendations](#) to improve college student access to food support programs.

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## Renewing the Dream: Improving Financial Aid & College Affordability for California's Undocumented Students (2023)

Released in March 2023 to identify roadblocks encountered by undocumented student and how CSAC and different levels of government can work to remove structural barriers to promote college access and affordability.



# Access to Proper Nutrition Equals College Success: Making CalFresh Work for Students



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# State Success Stories



## AB 2810 (Arambula)

Data Sharing  
Leverages the U.S. Dept. of Education  
“Dear Colleague” letter that advises  
institutions of higher education to use  
FAFSA data to inform students of  
CalFresh eligibility



## SB 641 (Skinner)

CalFresh Dashboard  
Requires Dept. of Social Services to post  
information on college student access  
to CalFresh. AB 928 (Rendon) adds that  
data must be updated annually.



## AB 1393 (Calderon)

CA Dream Act: Food Pilot Program  
Creates a state -funded food support  
benefit for CA Dream Act filers that  
cannot receive the federally -funded  
CalFresh benefit.





# Federal Progress



## White House Conference on Hunger

Unprecedented focus on student hunger, data sharing among gov't agencies, etc.

## “Compton Model”

Presented Under Secretary, James Kvaal, memo on the benefits of allowing students to ‘opt-in’ to social services on FAFSA.

## EATS Act (Padilla & Gomez)

The Commission has provided feedback to both on their legislation, which was incorporated in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congressional version.

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# In the Community

## San Bernardino Community College District Roundtable

Focus on increased access to  
CalFresh

- Replicating “Compton Model”
- Breaking down silos: sharing data/resources
- Removing stigma

Call to Action

- Participants left with “to-do” list
- Emphasis on collaboration
  - Cross-county
  - Between campuses/districts





# New Partners, New Opportunities



## UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Advisory Board

Commission invited to participate in study: *Policy Review: The Impact of CalFresh Expansion on Food Insecurity and Performance Among Higher Education Students*, with other higher education stakeholders.



## CA Policy Lab

*Student Supports* Project

Commission participating in project to map CalFresh eligibility of college students through data collected to find gaps in access



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# College Affordability Summit



## Just Added!!

Preconference session on Basic Needs & College Students to highlight the urgency.

## Practical Solutions

Hearing from panelists with hands-on experience improving access to basic needs on their campuses.





# Renewing the Dream : Improving Financial Aid & College Affordability for California's Undocumented Students





# Early progress in legislation



## AB 1540 (Fong, M.)

Facilitates incorporation of the AB 540 affidavit into the CA Dream Act Application

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## AB 278 (Reyes)

Creates the Dream Resources Center Grant Program for eligible high schools

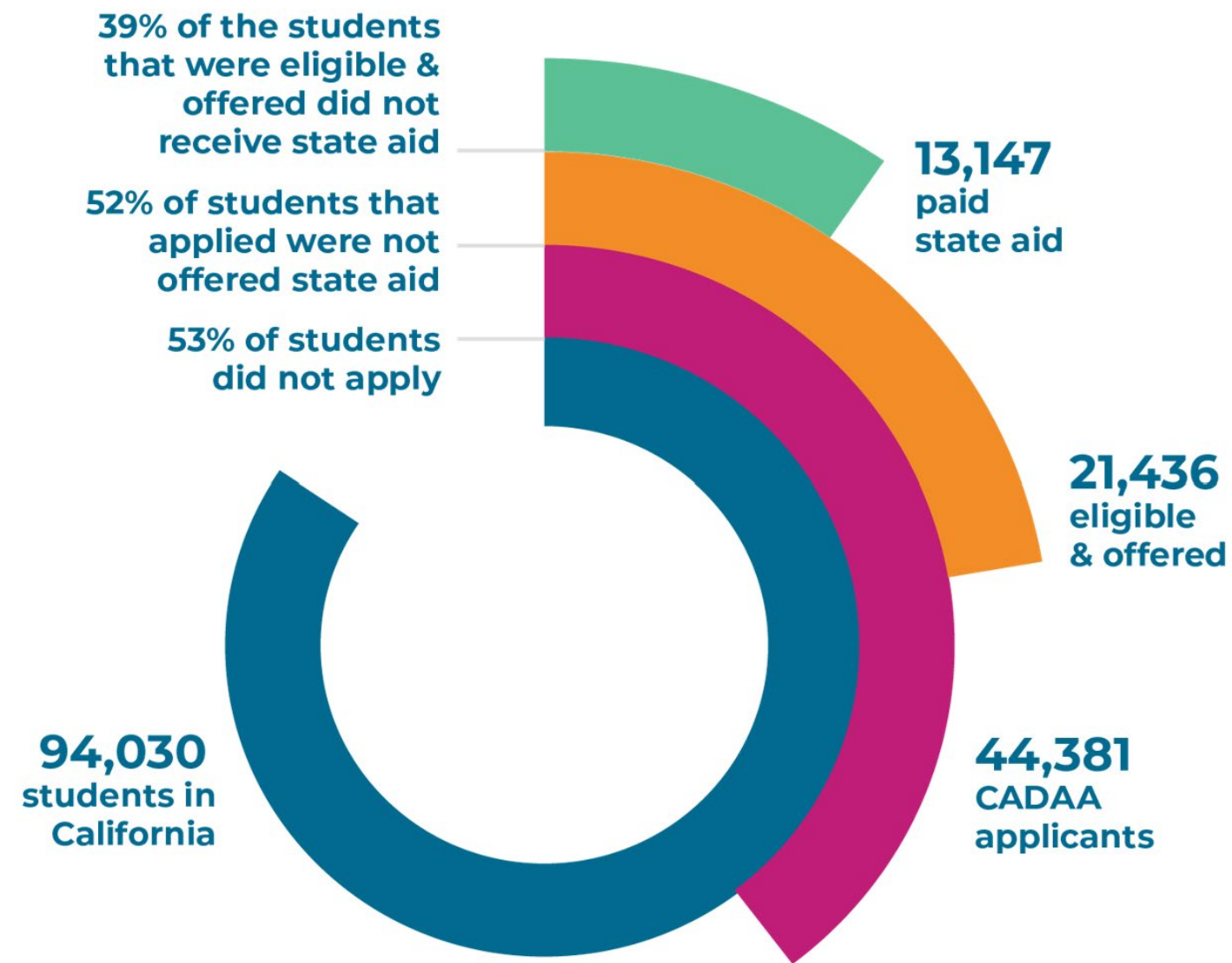
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## SB 633 (Gonzalez)

Authorizes institutions to use unawarded funds from DREAM loan program as grants, increasing resources for undocumented students



# Further research partnerships



## Student & family communications

As part of a broader communications effort, CSAC is partnering with external advisors to understand which messages best resonate in speaking about value of college and access to aid

## Impact of verification on aid

Study is looking at how verification changed eligibility or student access to financial aid.

## Counselor information access

Another study will look at how counselors receive information and share it with students and families.



# The Better CADAA Coming December 2023



## Updated question language & flow

Question order, text, and  
flow have been revised  
based on work group  
feedback

## Process changes

New process for collecting  
parental consent will  
address a key drop-off  
point for filers

## Preparing for AB 1540

Developing plan for how  
to implement and support  
partners should  
legislation be signed







# Thank you!

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## Q & A Discussion



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