

Item 6

(Action Item)

Approval and ratification of the Cal-SOAP contracts over \$100,000

SUMMARY:

This item provides the proposed 2020-21 allocations for funding 16 California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) consortia as well as proposed amendments to current contracts.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the following:

1. Amend the current 2019-20 Cal-SOAP contracts for the 14 established consortia to remain valid through June 30, 2021, thus creating two-year contracts.
2. Increase the 2019-2021 base funding for each of the new Inland Empire Cal SOAP projects by \$1.4 million for a total of \$2.8 million and extend funding through 2019-2022.
3. Approve the base funding for 2020-21 for each of the 14 established consortium as well as a portion of the \$5 million augmentation.
4. Authorize the Executive Director the flexibility to reallocate funds, if necessary.

BACKGROUND:

The California State Legislature established the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) in 1978. The Cal-SOAP program consists of regional consortia of K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and non-profit and community-based organizations whose aim is to increase postsecondary education opportunities for students who are; 1) from low-income families, 2) first-generation college students, 3) from schools or regions with low college eligibility and/or low college-going rates, and 4) homeless youth. The governing boards of each Cal-SOAP project determine the services and college access needs of its local schools and communities. However, all projects are required to: 1) increase the availability of information on postsecondary education and work opportunities and; 2) raise the achievement levels of the students they serve to increase the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities. The Commission's goal is to position Cal-SOAP as California's leading financial aid literacy program aimed to successfully prepare underserved students to access and afford college.

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Today, the program operates through 14 locally governed consortia serving 15 geographical areas throughout California. Two additional consortia are under development to serve the Inland Empire Region using funding provided specifically for this purpose in the Budget Act of 2019.

The 2019-20 Budget Act included \$7.9 million appropriated for the Cal-SOAP program, but not allocated for specific use. These funds were in addition to the \$7.9 million allocation to maintain current programming levels and \$2.1 million to begin Cal-SOAP services in the Inland Empire. The Commission's staff proposal included cleanup language to the 2019-20 Budget Act authorizing the Commission to expend the unallocated funds as follows: \$1.5 million for State Operations to improve data collection and accountability, \$3.5 million for local assistance toward the needs of current consortia (those established prior to 2020), and \$2.8 million toward funding the Inland Empire consortia for an additional year, through 2021-22.

At its' March 26, 2020 Commission meeting the Commission approved utilizing up to \$3.5 million to augment the 2019-20 contracts for nine of the Cal SOAP consortia per their requests, which are consistent with Cal-SOAP's mission and priorities. The magnitude of the COVID19 crisis was becoming clear, requiring the Cal SOAP programs to begin shifting to an online platform.

The May Revision of the 2020-21 Governor's Budget did not propose any changes to the Cal-SOAP annual funding allocation of \$7,898,000. The 2020-21 base allocations are consistent with the base allocations in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

ANALYSIS:

Recommendation #1: Amend the current 2019-20 Cal-SOAP contracts for the 14 established consortia to remain valid through June 30, 2021, thus creating two-year contracts.

Staff proposes the Commission allow amendments to the current 2019-20 Cal-SOAP contracts to allow the contracts period to extend through June 30, 2021, thus creating two-year contracts. This one-time change will allow consortia to:

- 1) Adjust their plans appropriately to the new environment,
- 2) Adapt to virtual programming as many campuses plan to teach in a virtual climate in the fall, and
- 3) Meet their match requirements, which may be challenging during the economic downturn, by the end of the contract period.

Recommendation #2: Increase the 2019-2021 base funding for each of the new Inland Empire Cal SOAP projects by \$1.4 million each for a total of \$2.8 million and extend the contract through 2021-22.

Staff proposes;

- 1) Using \$2.8 million increase Inland Empire 2019-2021 contracts by \$1,400,000 each, and
- 2) Extend the Inland Empire contracts through fiscal year 2021-22.

Table 1 provides staff recommendations on the distribution of the proposed Cal-SOAP Fiscal Year 2020-21 State General Fund support.

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**Table 1 - CAL-SOAP
2019-22 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR INLAND EMPIRE CONSORTIA**

Inland Empire Consortia	2019-20 Base (Existing Contract)	Additional 2019-20 One-Time Augmentation	Total 2019-2022 Contract
Riverside County Office of Education	\$1,191,000	\$1,400,000	\$2,591,000
CSU San Bernardino	\$909,000	\$1,400,000	\$2,309,000
	\$2,100,000	\$2,800,000	\$4,900,000

Recommendation #3: Approve the base funding for 2020-21 as well as a portion of the \$5 million augmentation for each Consortium.

Staff proposes to:

- 1) Continue the 2020-21 base funding as allocated in 2019-20;
- 2) Add a portion of the \$3.5 million augmentation at \$250,000 each Cal SOAP consortia by distributing the funds evenly across the 14 Cal-SOAP consortia, and
- 3) Allocate \$1.5 million to the South County Gilroy Cal-SOAP to work with CSAC to collect data across all Cal-SOAP projects to provide consistent outcome measures on student impact.

Table 2 provides staff recommendations on the distribution of the proposed Cal-SOAP Fiscal Year 2020-21 State General Fund support.

**Table 2 - CAL-SOAP
2019-21 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR ESTABLISHED CONSORTIA**

Consortium	2019-20 Base (Existing Contract)	2020-21 Base	Additional 2019-20 One-Time Augmentation	Total 2019-2021 Contract (2 Years)
Central Coast	\$434,402	\$434,402	\$250,000	\$1,118,804
Central Valley	\$408,117	\$408,117	\$250,000	\$1,066,234
East Bay/Solano	\$1,042,035	\$1,042,035	\$250,000	\$2,334,070
Long Beach	\$ 439,448	\$439,448	\$250,000	\$1,128,896
Los Angeles	\$728,515	\$728,515	\$250,000	\$1,707,030
Merced	\$415,056	\$415,056	\$250,000	\$1,080,112
Northcoast	\$434,396	\$434,396	\$250,000	\$1,118,792
Sacramento	\$654,006	\$654,006	\$250,000	\$1,558,012
San Diego/Imperial	\$1,045,219	\$1,045,219	\$250,000	\$2,340,438
San Francisco	\$387,498	\$387,498	\$250,000	\$1,024,996
San Jose	\$530,582	\$530,582	\$250,000	\$1,311,164
Santa Barbara	\$524,768	\$524,768	\$250,000	\$1,299,536
South County Gilroy	\$418,295	\$418,295	\$1,750,000	\$2,586,590
South San Joaquin	\$435,663	\$435,663	\$250,000	\$1,121,326
	\$7,898,000	\$7,898,000	\$5,000,000	\$20,796,000

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Recommendation #4: Authorize the Executive Director the flexibility to reallocate funds, if necessary.

Staff proposes providing the Executive Director with the authority to re-allocate funds equitably as between consortia if a consortium is unable to expend all allocated funding within the designated time-frame.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Steve Caldwell, Interim Deputy Director
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