

# Item 13

## (Information Item)

### Status of financial aid for California higher education undocumented students

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**SUMMARY:**

This item provides data on estimated number of undocumented students attending California colleges and universities, the financial aid available to them disaggregated by higher education segment and their eligibility for the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and highlights issues for their ability to access and receive state financial aid

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information item; no action is required.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the New American Economy (NAE) report, there are over 92,000 undocumented students enrolled in the California higher education system. Of the 92,000 students, about 52,000 filed a California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and only 16,000 received some type of state financial aid in 2018-19. There is a substantial gap between the estimated number of undocumented students and those that filed a CADAA (40%), and an even greater gap between those that filed a CADAA and ultimately received state aid (70%).

Of the 52,000 undocumented students who filed a CADAA, about 21,000 were considered new applicants. First time CADAA applicants must overcome barriers to complete the financial aid application process and receive their award. Consequently, only 10,000 new applicants were offered state financial aid and 6,000 were ultimately paid their award in 2018-19. In other words, about 50% of new CADAA applicants were offered some type of state aid and only 30% of new CADAA applicants received an award.

This item provides the estimated number of undocumented students attending California colleges and universities that receive some form of financial aid. Additionally, this item highlights issues that undocumented students face when accessing and receiving state financial aid. Lastly, this item provides policy considerations to ensure that the Commission captures students who are falling through the cracks of the complex financial aid system for undocumented students.

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

Teresita Martinez, Executive Fellow  
Executive Office

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

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