

## **Resources for Special Population Groups In California Community Colleges**

### **Student Support Resources**

The financial aid offices at California community colleges have an array of financial and support services available to special population students. These include:

- AmeriCorps Education Award – [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

Designed for high school graduates who complete a term of service in AmeriCorps and are enrolled in the National Service Trust, the program pays an award for educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or repays qualified student loans. The award is \$4,725 for a year of full-time service, and is prorated for part-time. Participants have up to seven years after their term of service has ended to claim the award.

- Cal Grant - <http://www.calgrants.org/>

Cal Grant Entitlement Award Programs were established through SB 1644 (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000). The entitlement awards are guaranteed to students who graduate from high school in 2000-01, or beyond, and meet financial, academic, and general program eligibility requirements.

- Cal Grant A provides tuition and fee funding to eligible high school graduates who have at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a four-point scale. The award provides up to a maximum grant award of \$9,708 for new and renewal recipients.
- Cal Grant B provides funds to eligible low-income disadvantaged high school graduates who have at least a 2.0 GPA. The award provides up to \$1,551 for book and living expenses for the first year. In the second year, it also helps pay for tuition and fees at qualifying post secondary institutions which, in 2006-07, is up to a maximum grant award of \$9,708 for new and renewal recipients.
- The California Community College Transfer Award provides funding to eligible high school graduates who have a community college GPA of at least 2.4 on a four-point scale.

#### Other Cal Grant Awards

- Cal Grant C provides funding for financially eligible students preparing for vocational or occupational careers. The authorized number of new awards is 7,761; the authorized maximum tuition and fee award is \$2,592 and the authorized award for training-related costs is \$576 for new and renewal grant recipients.

- California Chaffee Grant – [www.chaffee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chaffee.csac.ca.gov)

For current or former foster youth students to use for college courses - up to \$5,000 annually. To qualify applicants must have been in foster care on their 16th birthday and not have reached their 22nd birthday. The student must attend school at least half time, their course of study must be at least one year long and they must maintain satisfactory academic progress.

- Financial Aid - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>

The FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) is the first step in the financial aid process. Use it to apply for federal student financial aid, such as Pell grant, student loans, tuition fee waivers (Board Financial Assistance Program), and college work-study. In addition, most states and schools use FAFSA information to award their financial aid.

- Military Aid - <http://www.military.com/> and <http://finaid.org/military/>

For prospective (ROTC), current and former members of the armed services, student aid programs include the GI Bill, Tuition Assistance, Veterans Education Assistance Program, and Work Study. Many scholarships are available to current and past military participants as well.

- Scholarships – multiple internet sites offer free and fee-based searches. Specific colleges, community groups and employers may also offer scholarships. Some internet examples include:

Hispanic College Fund - <http://www.hispanicfund.org/>

United Negro College Fund - <http://www.uncf.org/>

College Board.com - <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

- The State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education (SNAPLE) SB 1309 (Scott) [http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/SB\\_1309](http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/SB_1309) (In Committee)

Allows the State to issue agreements for loan assumptions to persons who have completed at least one academic year, or the equivalent, of full-time teaching nursing studies at one or more regionally accredited, eligible California colleges or universities. Through SNAPLE, a participant can receive up to \$8,333 annually for 3 consecutive years towards outstanding student loans for a total loan assumption of up to \$25,000.

### **Resources to Develop & Support Programs**

- California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) - <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=77>

Through intersegmental consortia, provides financial aid outreach and tutoring services to disadvantaged K-12 students to increase their access to postsecondary education. Cal-

SOAP also assists community college students matriculate at four-year institutions. There are 16 Cal-SOAP consortia operating in 17 locations.

- CalWorks - <http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/ss/calworks/calworks.htm>

CalWORKS funds are for the purpose of assisting welfare recipient students and those in transition off of welfare to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through coordinated student services offered at community colleges including: work study, job placement, child care, coordination, curriculum development and redesign, and under certain conditions post-employment skills training, and instructional services.

- CCCC Apprenticeship Program -

<http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/esed/wfp/apprenticeship/apprenticeship.htm>

A partnership with employers and the California Community Colleges (CCC)/the California Department of Education's Regional Occupational Programs/Centers (ROPCs) and Adult Schools to provide students with on-the-job training and "related and supplemental instruction" (RSI).

- Career Center Student Support Services -

[http://www.vteabp.org/career\\_dev\\_survey\\_2003/career\\_dev\\_survey\\_links\\_page.htm](http://www.vteabp.org/career_dev_survey_2003/career_dev_survey_links_page.htm)

In 2003, the VTEA Career Development Collaborative grant project conducted a statewide survey of community college career center services available to students. The survey provides a comparative view across colleges, and gives information on marketing activities and staffing.

- Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) –

<http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/ss/care/care.htm>

The program assists EOPS students, who are recipients of TANF and CalWORKs, single heads of household with children under 14 years old. Grants and allowances are provided for child care, transportation and books-supplies.

- Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSP&S) –

<http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/ss/disabled/dsps.htm>

Provides support services, specialized instruction, and educational accommodations to students with disabilities. Examples of services available through DSPS that are over and above those regularly offered by the college would be test-taking facilitation, assessment for learning disabilities, specialized counseling, interpreter services for hearing-impaired or deaf students, mobility assistance, note taker services, reader services, speech services, transcription services, transportation, specialized tutoring, access to adaptive equipment, job development/placement, registration assistance, special parking and specialized instruction.

- Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) –

<http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/ss/eops/eops.htm>

A state-funded, EOPS offers academic and support counseling, financial aid and other support services for qualified low-income students who are enrolled full-time (12 or more units). The goal of the program is to help eligible students meet their educational objectives, whether they seek occupational certificates, associate degrees, or transfer to four-year institutions.

- Foundations

Many state and national foundations fund programs that support special populations participating in postsecondary education. Colleges will need to conduct research and network/establish relationships with foundation program officers to explore potential funding opportunities.

- Migrant Education Programs and Services -

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/mt/programs.asp>

Migrant education supports two kinds of programs designed to strengthen the school, community, and family experiences of children and their families. Some programs are developed locally by migrant education regional offices in collaboration with K-12 school districts that enroll migratory students. Other programs are administered statewide and are designed to meet specific needs of students, such as those related to the identification and recruitment of migrant families, parent involvement, and student leadership.

- Middle College High School - <http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/ss/mchs/mchs.htm>

A collaborative program that enables high-potential, "at-risk" students to obtain a quality high school education while concurrently receiving direct and invaluable access to college courses and services.

- TRIO Student Support Services - <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/funding.html>

A Federal program focusing on improving recruitment and retention of low-income residents who are first-generation college students and students with disabilities evidencing academic need. Proposals for TRIO Federal funding are accepted from colleges across the nation every four years. FY 2005 awarded more than \$274 million to 951 colleges to establish SSS programs, which offer support services and additional grant aid for students receiving Pell grants.

- Workability - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/sr/wrkabltyI.asp>

A comprehensive pre-employment training, employment placement and follow-up for high school students in special education who are making the transition from school to work, independent living and post secondary education or training.