California
Student Aid Commission

Chafee Grant for Foster Youth
California Chafee Grant

Free Money for Foster Youth
For College or Technical and Career Training

• Assists current and former foster youth to help pay for college or career/technical training, and related expenses

• Administered by the Commission through an interagency agreement with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

• Maximum annual award amount is $5,000 per academic year, based on unmet need

• $17,623,700 federally and state-funded grant, subject to annual availability of funds

• Portable award (eligible schools outside of California)
Did you Know...

**Chafee Grant is NOT financial aid**

It falls under California Health & Human Services guidelines, and therefore may be used for expenses *beyond* just undergraduate tuition, books, & supplies:

- Chafee funds may be used towards rent, transportation, and childcare
- Chafee funds can be used for post-grad studies and teacher certification
- Schools should disburse the original Chafee check, in its entirety. Funds are payable to students, “in care of” the college
- Chafee funds cannot be withheld from students who have a balance owed to the school *without written student consent*
School Eligibility

Per AB 2506, the following schools are eligible to administer the Chafee Grant:

- Institutions that are Cal Grant eligible

- Institutions that do not participate in the Cal-Grant program, or are located outside California:
  - Title IV
  - Three-year cohort default rate less than 15.5% and
  - Overall graduation rate greater than 30%

- Paid Chafee recipients that continue to meet the student eligibility requirements are grandfathered, and are not subject to the provisions of AB 2506, as long as they maintain continuous enrollment at the same institution
Chafee Grant Eligibility Expanded

- AB 1811 trailer bill has expanded eligibility to include students who have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year

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- Previously age-ineligible participants have been renewed

- Chafee Grant paid participation is limited to 5 total years
  - Each academic year that a payment greater than $1 is issued counts as 1 year of paid participation
  - Participation does not have to occur in consecutive academic years

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Student Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, students must:

• Be a current/former foster youth who was a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care for at least one day, between the ages of 16 and 18
  o Students in Kin-GAP, legal guardianship, and adoption are only eligible if also a dependent or ward of the court, living in foster care, for at least one day between the ages of 16 and 18

• Not have received payments for more than 5 years (42 US Code Section 677 (i)(3))

• Not have reached their 26\textsuperscript{th} birthday as of \textbf{July 1\textsuperscript{st}} of the award year

![Image of application form]

If you are an undocumented student and do not have a Dream Act ID, please submit a Dream Act Application to obtain an ID.

Which application do you want to file?

If you are currently enrolled in college, submit a 2019-2020 application.
If you are a high school senior and plan to attend college in the Fall of 2020 or Spring 2021, submit a 2020-2021 application.
Student Eligibility

To be eligible for payment, students must:

- Enroll in a program at least one academic year long
- Attend at least half-time
- Make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Demonstrate sufficient unmet need

* Students are NOT required to:

- Provide a GPA
- Graduate from high school
- Meet ability-to-benefit requirements
- Have a social security number
- Register for Selective Service
- Be clear of default or overpayments
- Apply by March 2nd

* For Chafee Grant only. Students applying for Cal Grant and other aid must still meet all deadlines and other requirements
The award year is July 1st – June 30th

To apply for the Chafee Grant, students must “not have reached their 26nd birthday as of July 1st of the award year”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Year</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>7/1/18</td>
<td>6/30/19</td>
<td>8/30/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>7/1/19</td>
<td>6/30/20</td>
<td>9/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Awarding Process

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Application Process

The Chafee Grant application process has 3 components to determine preliminary eligibility. A GPA is not required:

**Components:**

- Department of Social Services Record
  - Monthly electronic upload by CDSS
- Chafee Grant Application
- 2019-2020 FAFSA

**Frequency:**

- One Time
- One Time
- Annually

*Students should complete the Chafee application and FAFSA/CADAA for the academic year they plan to enroll*

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Priority Selection Hierarchy

Priority Awarding Hierarchy:

1. Paid renewal students who have not reached their 26th birthday by July 1st of the award year
2. New and non-paid renewal students who will have reached 25 years of age by July 1st of the award year
3. New and non-paid renewal students who have dependents
4. New and non-paid renewal students with an unmet need greater than $5,000
5. New and non-paid renewal students with an unmet need less than $5,000

* WebGrants System automatically prioritizes students
* Students are typically wait-listed the academic year in which they apply
Certifying Eligibility & Requesting Payments

To maximize funding:

• Schools must certify both **eligible** and **ineligible** students

• Uncertified awards will be withdrawn and recycled to eligible wait-listed students after 30 days

• Schools must certify eligibility and request payments **each** term

• **Certify & Request Payment** in the same transaction. Only one transaction is allowed per week

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Payment Roster

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Chafee Award Status

Enhanced Roster Award Status:
Awarded: Student has a preliminary award. Schools certify eligibility and request payment within 30 days

Eligible - Not Awarded: Student is eligible but not yet awarded. The student has lower priority on the awarding hierarchy and will become "Awarded" as funds are recycled

Pending: There is a recent pending transaction that will process Monday evening

Paid in Full: Student was paid for all eligible terms

Not Awarded: School certified student as ineligible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Code</th>
<th>SSN</th>
<th>CSAC ID</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Award Status</th>
<th>Award Status Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00115000</td>
<td>4444444444</td>
<td>105123456</td>
<td>VANG</td>
<td>HAI</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>5/23/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00115000</td>
<td>5555555555</td>
<td>105234567</td>
<td>DAVIS</td>
<td>SHAQUILLE</td>
<td>Not Awarded</td>
<td>4/20/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>00115000</td>
<td>6666666666</td>
<td>105345678</td>
<td>BOWEN</td>
<td>JOSH</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00115000</td>
<td>777777777</td>
<td>105345869</td>
<td>JONES</td>
<td>ADAM</td>
<td>Paid in Full</td>
<td>7/20/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Certifying Eligibility

Living Arrangements, Education Level, & EFC:
- Self-reported on FAFSA/CADAA. Correct as needed

Terms Attending:
- Auto-populates based on your school’s term schedule

Cost of Attendance:
- Certify Cost of Attendance, EFC, & Other Aid once
- Other Aid: *Follow school policy on what constitutes “other aid”*
Request Payments Every Term

Only 1 roster transaction is allowed each week:

- If eligibility is certified and “saved” before payment is requested, you must wait until the following Tuesday to request payment
  
  Certify eligibility and request payment in the same transaction

Ensure that transactions are **saved**:

- Must display “Pending”
- “Pending” status will be released the following weekly cycle
## Request Payment

### Request Payment - Open Terms: Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Checkbox</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay Fall Term - (07/23/2019)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay Winter Term - (11/04/2019)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay Spring Term - (01/13/2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay Summer Term - (05/18/2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the **check box is shaded**, you cannot request payment because one of the following reasons:

- You have indicated in “Term(s) Attending” that the student is not eligible for that term payment.
- We have not opened the term for schools to request payment. The dates in this section indicate the time in which we open each term.
- The term is not applicable to your school.
Request Payment - Paid in Full

- Pay Fall Term - (07/23/2018): $2,500 Paid
- Pay Winter Term - (11/05/2018): $2,500 Paid
- Pay Spring Term - (12/03/2018): $2,500 Paid
- Pay Summer Term - (06/01/2019):
Certifying Ineligibility

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Annual-Level Ineligibility

Chose only if ineligibile for the entire academic year:

- Annual-level withdrawal
- Choose only 1 ineligible reason

Students who regain eligibility can be re-awarded:

- Uncheck the ineligible reason + SAVE
- The student is typically re-awarded during the next weekly award cycle

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Term-Level Ineligibility

To report leave of absence, less than half-time, or not meeting SAP for current/previous term(s):
- Remove the checkmark for that term only
- Do not remove the checkmark for future terms, since future eligibility is unknown

To reverse this action:
- If a student regains eligibility for a term that was previously deselected, add a checkmark for the eligible term
- After the student is re-awarded, request payment for that term
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• Empty Checkbox = Certification Needed
• Preliminary Award offered: 7/24/19
• Fall term certified within 30 days: 7/31/19
• State Controller's Office (SCO) issues check on 8/13/19
• Spring term certified on 12/17/19
• SCO issues Spring check on 12/21/19
Eligible-Not Awarded

- **Eligible- Not Awarded:** Student is eligible but not yet awarded. The student has lower priority on the awarding hierarchy but will become “Awarded” as funds are recycled, and the student moves up in awarding hierarchy.

- Students are typically wait-listed for the first academic year.

- No need to certify until awarded.

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**Student Application Status**

- **STUDENT NAME:** 1234 A ST, SACTOWN, CA 12345
  - **E-Mail:** studentname@csac.com

- **Academic Year:** 2018-2019
  - **SSN:** 123456789
  - **CSAC ID:** 105123456
  - **DOB:** 07/29/1999
  - **Home Phone:** (916) 555-1212
  - **Work/Cell Phone:**

- **School Eligibility Certification**
  - **Certified by:**
    - **Institution Code:** 00115000
    - CSU SACRAMENTO
    - CSU SACRAMENTO
    - 6000 J STREET
    - SACRAMENTO CA 95819
    - **Unmet Need:** 27374
  - **Financial Aid Official:**
    - **Title:** CSAC ADMIN
    - **Phone Number:** (888)294-0153
    - **E-mail Address:** schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov
    - **Date Certified:** 23-JUL-19

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Not Awarded

- **Not Awarded** = Student was initially (preliminarily) awarded, but the school certified the student as ineligible for the *entire academic year*

- Students who regain eligibility can be re-awarded the following Tuesday by unchecking the ineligible reason on the roster + SAVE

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<tr>
<td>1234 A ST.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACTOWN, CA 12345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:studentname@csac.com">studentname@csac.com</a></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date Certified:</strong> 23-JUL-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **2019-2020 Preliminary Award Offered**
  - **Award Amount:** 5000 |
  - **Award Date:** 07/24/2019

- **School Eligibility Certification**
  - **Submitted by:**
    - Institution Code: 00115000
    - CSU SACRAMENTO
    - CSU SACRAMENTO
    - 6000 J STREET
    - SACRAMENTO CA 95819-27374
  - **Date Submitted:** 31-JUL-19
  - **Date Processed:** 08/05/2019

- **2019-2020 Not Awarded - Ineligible**
  - Student Not Maintaining Satisfactory Progress
Disburse Checks

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Check Eligibility Twice

1. Before requesting payment...
Student eligibility must be certified:
• Enrolled at least half-time
• Maintaining SAP
• Sufficient unmet need

2. Before disbursing checks...
Continued eligibility must be re-verified:
• Still enrolled at least half-time
• Still maintaining SAP
• Still has sufficient unmet need
Check Disbursements

Disburse original State of CA check within 30 days

Suggested Practices:
• Process as outside funding
• Process through Cashier’s Office vs. Accounting

Report disbursement on Institution Reconciliation screen
Returned Checks

- If a student is no longer eligible for their Chafee grant: **Return check to CSAC within 30 days**
- On the check stub, indicate one reason for return
- Report returned checks using the Institution Reconciliation screen in WebGrants
Institution
Reconciliation

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Institution Reconciliation

Schools utilize the Institution Reconciliation screen on WebGrants to report disbursed and returned checks.
Reconciliation

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Weekly email alerts are sent to schools and students:

**Schools:**
- Uncertified awards will be recycled after 30 days

**Students:**
- Alerts students when their awards are recycled.
  Students are advised to either:
  - Contact the Financial Aid Office, if they have questions
  - Make a school change, if they are no longer enrolled at that school
Questions?

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Chafee Unit
Phone: (888) 294-0153, option 3
Email: chafee@csac.ca.gov