The Cal Grant Reform Coalition urges the legislature and Governor to fund their promise for a more accessible, affordable college opportunity for all by **funding the Cal Grant Reform Act, enacted in 2022-23**. Our Coalition is comprised of higher education advocacy, civil rights and social justice, business and workforce, student leadership organizations, postsecondary systems, and labor groups.

**WHAT IS CAL GRANT REFORM?**
The goal of Cal Grant reform is to make state student financial aid more accessible, understandable, and equitable by:

- **Removing barriers to financial aid** based on age, time since high school graduation, and Grade Point Average, making thousands more students eligible for a Cal Grant.
- **Simplifying financial aid** so that it is easier to understand by consolidating eight types of Cal Grant into a Cal Grant 2 for community college students and a Cal Grant 4 for students attending public universities or eligible private institutions.
- **Indexing the Cal Grant 2 award** to annual inflation to maintain its purchasing power over time; and
- **Aligning the Cal Grant with new changes** in federal financial aid so that counselors and educators can send a clear message about all the forms of aid for which students will qualify.

**HOW MANY MORE STUDENTS WILL BE SERVED WHEN FULLY FUNDED?**
The Cal Grant Equity Framework expands access to financial aid to more than **130,000 additional students**. Students in every segment of CA higher education see benefits from the changes in the Cal Grant Equity Framework.

**HOW DOES THE REFORM SUPPORT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY?**
The Cal Grant reform addresses key gaps in financial aid access for students of color and low-income students:

- The Cal Grant reform **expands eligibility for over 13,000 Black students and 98,000 Latino students**.
  - Black and Latino students are disproportionately impacted by the current limitations in Cal Grant.
• The Cal Grant reform is important for **women and student parents**.
  ○ **Women comprise over 60% of all the students made eligible** for aid by the Cal Grant Equity Framework.
  ○ The Framework **makes over 46,000 student-parents eligible** for Cal Grants.
• There are **gains for students in every demographic category**.
  ○ Over **8,000 API students and 15,000 White students** are made eligible for Cal Grant.
  ○ Undocumented students benefit from the Cal Grant reform – **over 2,500 more CA Dream Act filers are made eligible for aid**.
  ○ Current gaps in the Cal Grant program are restricting many low-income students from accessing financial aid – currently ineligible students that will be served under the reform have an **average income of just $27,000**.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS FOR FULLY IMPLEMENTING CAL GRANT REFORM?**

• The Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst Office and the California Student Aid Commission estimated a **cost of $195 million, with smaller one-time costs per year until 2029**.
  ○ **One-time costs** are due to students being “grandfathered in”. Any students that are currently receiving a Cal Grant would continue to receive their same kind of Cal Grant award until they graduate or exhaust their lifetime eligibility.

**WHAT IS OUR REQUEST?**

• Keep your promise to students and advance Cal Grant Reform in the 2024-25 state budget by making a meaningful first step towards full implementation.
• We understand we’re operating in a constrained budget landscape and are currently exploring low cost and no-cost options which allows us to make progress this year, and we hope this can be paired with a commitment to finish the full package in the future.

*Making college and higher education more accessible and affordable means:*

**YOU are prioritizing an investment in California’s economic growth, workforce development, students, and its future!**