

# Making College Affordability a Reality for California Students

PACE Annual Conference  
February 7, 2020  
Sacramento, California

@edpolicyinca



#2020PACE

# Agenda

- 1:15-2:10: Panelist presentations
- 2:10-2:25: Panelist Q&A
- 2:25-2:40: Table conversations
- 2:40-2:45: Table report out

# Panelists



Tammeil Gilkerson,  
President of Laney  
College



Johanna Lacoë, Research  
Director, California Policy  
Lab



Patrick Perry, Division Chief  
of Policy, Research & Data,  
California Student Aid  
Commission



Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, Associate  
Dean for Equity & Inclusion and  
Professor of Education, UCLA  
Graduate School of Education &  
Information Studies Faculty  
Director, PACE

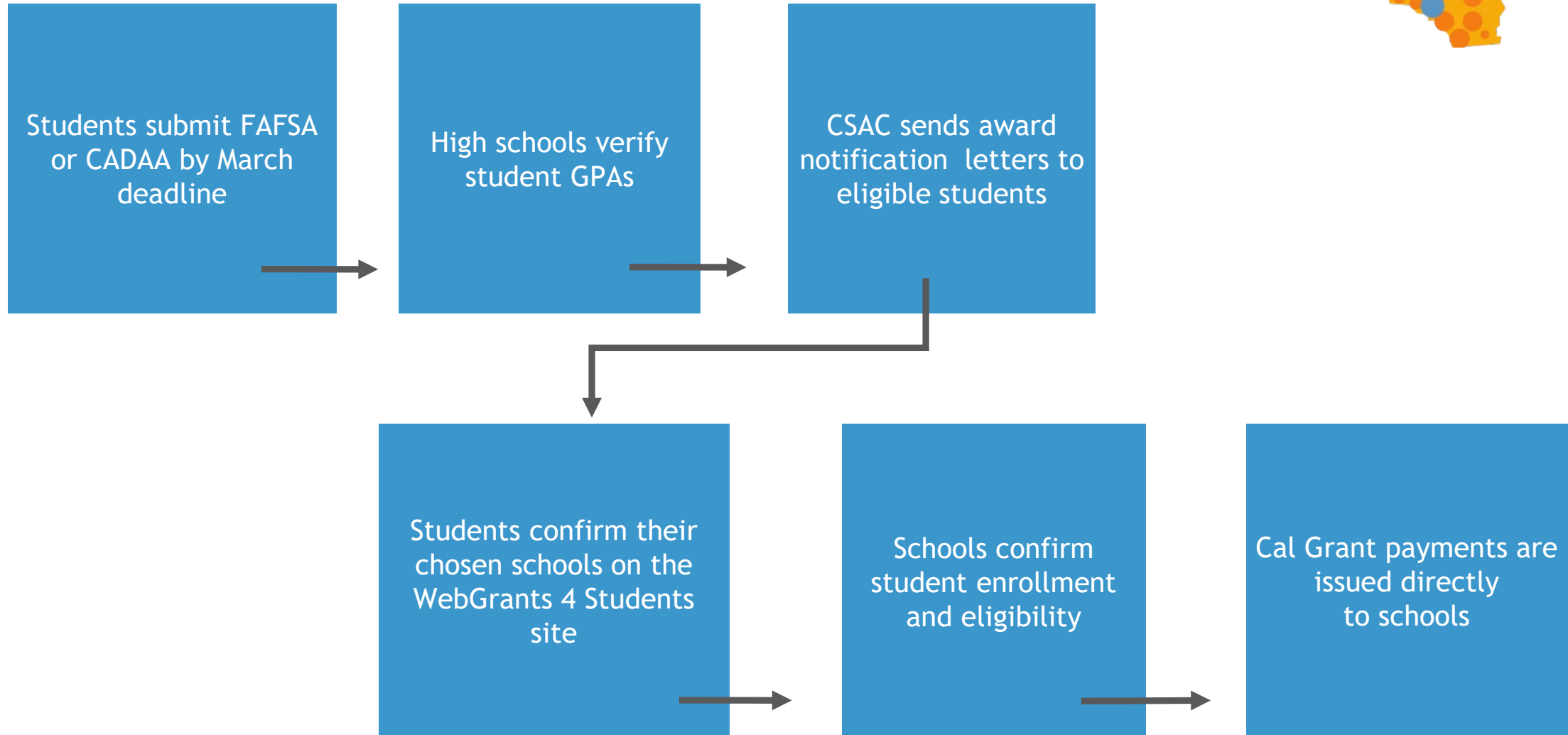
# Increasing the Take-Up of the Cal Grant

February 7, 2020

Johanna Lacoë  
Research Director



# Process for receiving a Cal Grant



# Cal Grants I: Randomization was conducted at the school level



## Control

# of schools: 806  
# of students: ~46K

## Treatment 1 simplified letter

# of schools: 795  
# of students: ~47K

## Treatment 2: simplified letter + belonging language

# of schools: 797  
# of students: ~45K

# Cal Grants I study timeline



**November 2017**  
CSAC begins mailing  
letters to students

**June 2018**  
Last letters are  
mailed

**October 2017**  
The Free Application  
for Federal Student  
Aid (FAFSA) opens to  
students

**March 2018**  
FAFSA deadline;  
letters continue to go  
out after this date

**September 2018**  
Students enroll for  
the fall semester at  
their chosen  
institutions

**February 2020**  
Expecting final data  
on enrollment for  
2018-2019

# Control letter

## **Congratulations!**

**You have been awarded a preliminary Cal Grant award for the 2018-19 academic year!**

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., the Legislature and the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) are investing in YOU because of your academic achievements and determination. Based on the information you provided to CSAC on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) as well as your GPA, you have been determined to be preliminarily eligible for a Cal Grant.

Cal Grant award amounts vary by the type of college you choose to attend and enrollment status. These are the current Cal Grant maximum amounts you could receive if you enroll at an eligible California campus in the following segments:

<b>College Segment</b>	<b>Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount</b>
California Community College (CCC):	\$1,672
California State University (CSU):	\$5,742*
University of California (UC):	\$12,630*
Private, Non-Profit or WASC-accredited colleges:	\$9,084*
Non-WASC accredited For-Profit Colleges:	\$4,000*

\*Cal Grant B students may also receive a \$1,672 access award in addition to the amount listed above.

In addition to a Cal Grant you are potentially eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, for approximately \$ 5920

These grants, and any other financial aid that you might receive, will help you cover the costs of attending college, which include tuition and fees, food and housing, and books and supplies.

**The Cal Grant and Pell Grant do not require repayment** and is only one part of your financial aid package. After you are admitted, the campus financial aid office will provide a full financial aid award notice. In addition to the Cal Grant and Pell Grant, you may also be eligible for one or more of the following:

- Institutional grants or scholarships offered at public and private colleges and universities;
- California College Promise Grant;
- Work-Study Program or Federal Student Loans;
- Other types of financial aid offered at your campus of attendance, such as private scholarships and student loans.

This is an initial Cal Grant award notification only. You must still apply for admission to the campus you plan to attend. Your college makes the final eligibility determination for Cal Grant prior to disbursing your award. For questions about final eligibility determination and disbursement dates, reach out to the financial aid office at your chosen campus.

***Make California and your families proud by continuing and completing your education.***  
Claim your Cal Grant Award by logging onto WebGrants for Students at [www.csac.ca.gov/mygrantinfo](http://www.csac.ca.gov/mygrantinfo)  
See enclosed flyer for more information

**Lupita Cortez Alcalá**  
Executive Director

E1PRP2 (11/17)

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written [authorization](#) from the student.





# First treatment letter: simplified language



Dear [REDACTED],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant scholarship**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college for all four years if you remain eligible. It does not need to be repaid.

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/mycalgrantinfo](http://www.csac.ca.gov/mycalgrantinfo) and take the first step to claim **your** scholarship!

Grant ID number: [REDACTED]

CSAC ID number: [REDACTED]

As you research different college options, remember that **the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn't determine which college you choose to attend**. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

College Segment	Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount
California Community College (CCC):	\$1,672
California State University (CSU):	\$5,742
University of California (UC):	\$12,630
Private, Non-Profit or WASC-accredited colleges:	\$9,084
Non-WASC accredited For-Profit Colleges:	\$4,000

In addition you may be eligible for a living stipend of up to \$1,672 per year, and for other grants, such as an estimated \$1170 in a Federal Pell Grant.

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*

Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

E1TG12 (11/17)

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written [authorization](#) from the student.

# Second treatment letter: simplified language + statement of belonging



Dear [REDACTED],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant scholarship**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college for all four years if you remain eligible. It does not need to be repaid.

**You have shown that you're the kind of person who belongs in college. We've been working hard to help you get there!**

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/calgrantinfo](http://www.csac.ca.gov/calgrantinfo) and take the first step to claim **your** scholarship!

Grant ID number:

CSAC ID number: [REDACTED]

As you research different college options, remember that **the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn't determine which college you choose to attend**. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

College Segment	Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount
California Community College (CCC):	\$1,672
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In addition you may be eligible for a living stipend of up to \$1,672 per year, and for other grants, such as an estimated \$ 5920 in a Federal Pell Grant.

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*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*

Executive Director

California Student Aid Commission

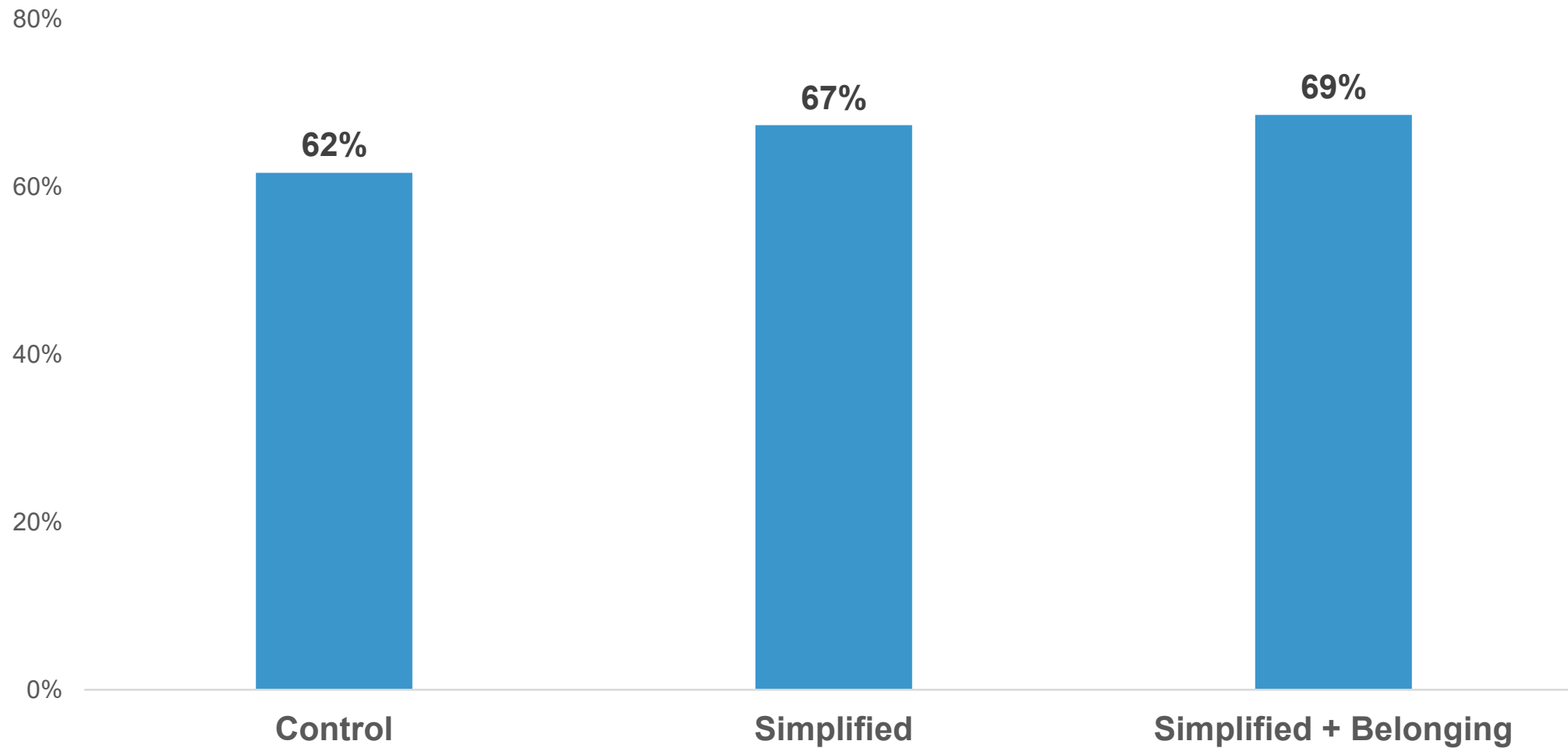
E1TG22 (11/17)

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written [authorization](#) from the student.

# Effect on account creation



## Creation of a WebGrants Account



# Cal Grants II: 4 arms



## Control

simplified +  
belonging letter from Cal Grants I

# of schools: 639  
# of students: ~33K

## Treatment 1

removing all belonging  
language

# of schools: 630  
# of students: ~28K

## Treatment 2

including language framing college  
as a social norm instead

# of schools: 633  
# of students: ~31K

## Treatment 3

adding to the control a table providing  
personalized net price estimates for  
public institutions listed on a student's  
FAFSA

# of schools: 632  
# of students: ~31K

# Cal Grants II study timeline



**November 2018**  
CSAC begins mailing  
letters to students

**June 2019**  
Last letters are  
mailed

**October 2018**  
The Free Application  
for Federal Student  
Aid (FAFSA) opens to  
students

**March 2019**  
FAFSA deadline;  
letters continue to go  
out after this date

**September 2019**  
Students enroll for  
the fall semester at  
their chosen  
institutions

**February 2020**  
Expecting data on fall  
2019 enrollment

# Control letter: simplified + belonging



Dear [REDACTED],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

**You have shown that you're the kind of person who belongs in college.  
We've been working hard to help you get there!**

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/2019grant](http://www.csac.ca.gov/2019grant) and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [REDACTED]

As you research different college options, remember that **the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn't determine which college you choose to attend**. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

College Segment	Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount
California Community College (CCC):	\$1,672
California State University (CSU):	\$5,742
University of California (UC):	\$12,570
Private Nonprofit College or University:	\$9,084
Private For-Profit College or University:	\$4,000 - \$8,056

You are also eligible for other grants, such as an estimated \$ [REDACTED] in a Federal Pell Grant. You can learn more about your financial aid options at [www.csac.ca.gov/calc](http://www.csac.ca.gov/calc).

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*

Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

E1PR91 (11/18)

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.

# First treatment letter: simplified only



Dear [REDACTED],

Congratulations! You have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/2019calgrant](http://www.csac.ca.gov/2019calgrant) and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [REDACTED]

As you research different college options, remember that **the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn't determine which college you choose to attend**. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

College Segment	Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount
California Community College (CCC):	\$1,672
California State University (CSU):	\$5,742
University of California (UC):	\$12,570
Private Nonprofit College or University:	\$9,084
Private For-Profit College or University:	\$4,000 - \$8,056

You are also eligible for other grants, such as an estimated \$ [REDACTED] in a Federal Pell Grant. You can learn more about your financial aid options at [www.csac.ca.gov/netprice](http://www.csac.ca.gov/netprice).

Good luck with your applications!

Sincerely,

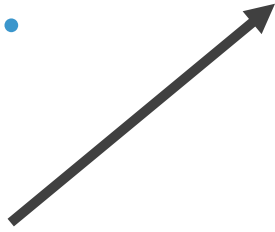
*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*

Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

E1G191 (11/18)

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.

# Second treatment letter: social norm



Dear [REDACTED],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

**Join thousands of high school seniors who have claimed their Cal Grant and are now college graduates!**

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/2019award](http://www.csac.ca.gov/2019award) and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [REDACTED]

As you research different college options, remember that **the Cal Grant is designed so that tuition cost doesn't determine which college you choose to attend**. The maximum amounts you would receive are listed below:

College Segment	Maximum Cal Grant Award Amount
California Community College (CCC):	\$1,672
California State University (CSU):	\$5,742
University of California (UC):	\$12,570
Private Nonprofit College or University:	\$9,084
Private For-Profit College or University:	\$4,000 - \$8,056

You are also eligible for other grants, such as an estimated \$ [REDACTED] in a Federal Pell Grant. You can learn more about your financial aid options at [www.csac.ca.gov/cost](http://www.csac.ca.gov/cost).

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*  
Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

E1G291 (11/18)

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.





# Third treatment letter: net price



Dear [REDACTED],

Congratulations! Based on your hard work and record of academic achievement, you have been preliminarily selected to receive a **Cal Grant**. This scholarship will help you pay for the costs of college, and it does not need to be repaid.

**You have shown that you're the kind of person who belongs in college.  
We've been working hard to help you get there!**

Go to [www.csac.ca.gov/2019mygrant](http://www.csac.ca.gov/2019mygrant) and take the first step!

CSAC ID number: [REDACTED]

As you research different college options, remember that **the published cost of college is not necessarily the cost for you**, because of financial aid.

Based on the information you listed on your FAFSA, we estimate that you could be eligible for as much as \$27,731 in financial aid that would reduce your costs at the colleges you listed and does not need to be paid back. The back of this letter has estimates of the aid you would receive at these schools if you attend full time. You can learn more about your financial aid options at [www.csac.ca.gov/price](http://www.csac.ca.gov/price).

Good luck with your applications! You are already on your way to becoming a college graduate!

Sincerely,

*Lupita Cortez Alcalá*  
Executive Director  
California Student Aid Commission

# Third treatment letter: net price



ESTIMATED 2019-20 COLLEGE COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID FOR [REDACTED]

	Living situation	Estimated tuition, fees, housing, and other costs	Estimated grant aid you will receive	Estimated cost for you
Rice University		Not available	Not available	<b>Not available</b>
Lewis & Clark College		Not available	Not available	<b>Not available</b>
University Of California-Santa Cruz	<i>On Campus</i>	\$36,396	\$23,496	<b>\$12,900</b>
University Of California-Santa Barb	<i>On Campus</i>	\$36,180	\$25,680	<b>\$10,500</b>
University Of California (UCLA)	<i>On Campus</i>	\$33,604	\$24,804	<b>\$8,800</b>
University Of California-Davis	<i>On Campus</i>	\$35,731	\$27,731	<b>\$8,000</b>
Cal State-Long Beach	<i>On Campus</i>	\$23,610	\$12,957	<b>\$10,653</b>
University Of California-San Diego	<i>On Campus</i>	\$31,095	\$21,595	<b>\$9,500</b>

← net price

The estimates above were created using the net price calculators on the institutions' websites. Final aid determinations are made by institutions. You can expect details of your full financial aid package from your institution once you have been admitted.

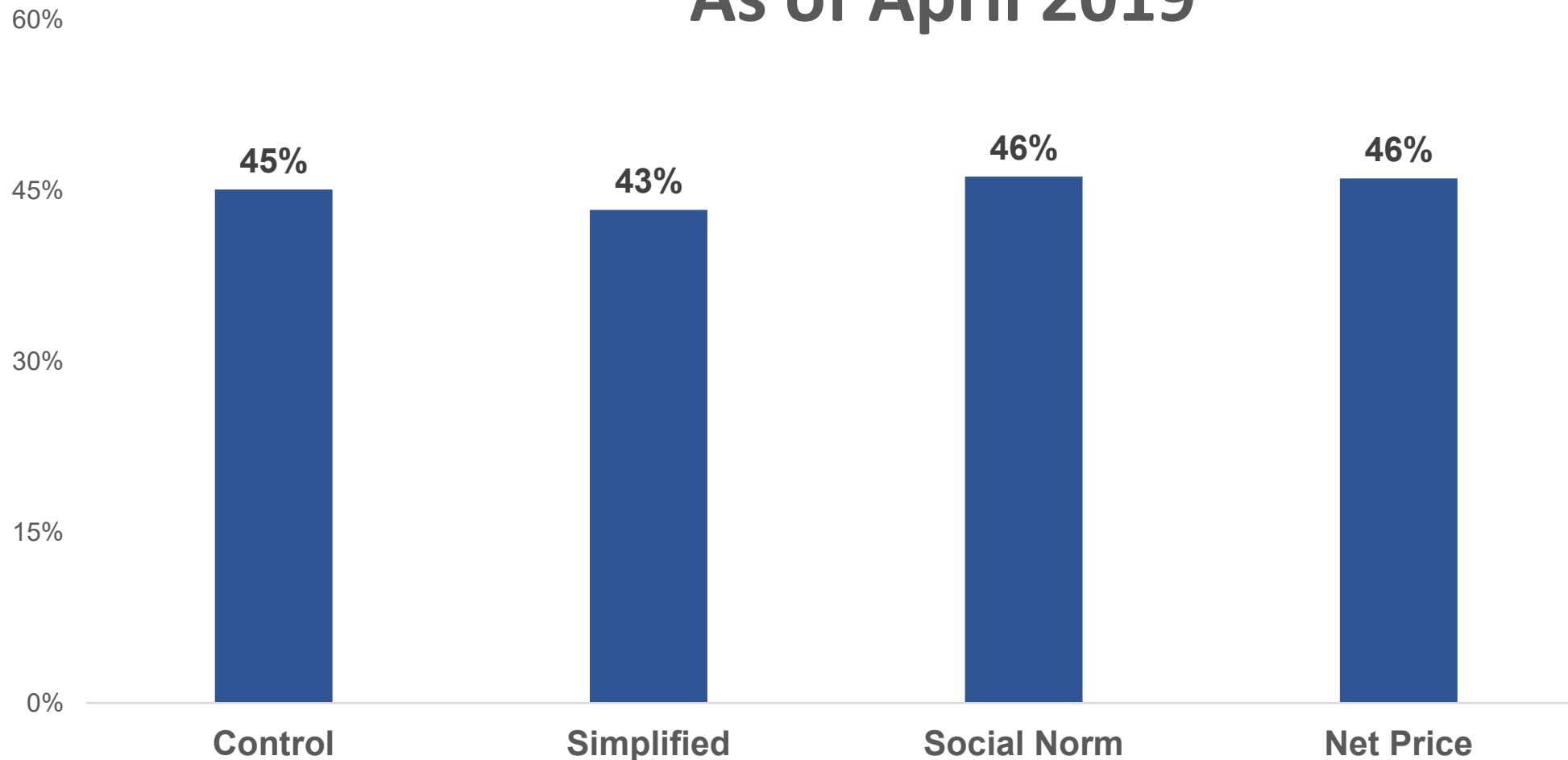
Grant aid estimates include aid from multiple sources, including the Cal Grant and other state, federal, and institutional aid programs. Grant aid does not need to be paid back. Loans or work study may also be available to help you cover costs.

Visit [www.csac.ca.gov/price](http://www.csac.ca.gov/price) for information about institutions where estimates are not available.

# Effect on account creation



## Creation of a WebGrants Account As of April 2019



# Conclusions & next steps



- Cal Grants I: The simplified letters increased account creation
- Cal Grant II: The net price and social norm letters increased account creation relative to the simplified letters, but not the simplified + belonging letters
  - The effect of letters in the second experiment on account creation was much smaller, possibly because the baseline letters were very similar to the treatment letters
- **Next steps:** estimate the effect of the letters on college enrollment



**Thank you!**

**Questions: Johanna Lacoë, [johanna.lacoe@berkeley.edu](mailto:johanna.lacoe@berkeley.edu)**

# Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS)

Patrick Perry

*Director of Policy, Research, and Data*



<https://www.csac.ca.gov/sears>

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# Background

## CSAC creates Student Expense Budget (SEB)

- From early 1970s through 2006-07, SEB was informed by SEARS data
- Survey was administered every 3 years (on paper)
- Used by institutions for public disclosure of cost of attendance

## Survey halted after 2006-07 due to budget cuts

- Since then, SEB adjusted each year using the California Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- CSAC relaunched SEARS in 2018 (web-based)

ALLOWANCE	WITH PARENTS	ON CAMPUS HOUSING	OFF CAMPUS HOUSING
<b>TUITION AND FEES<sup>1</sup></b>	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES		
<b>BOOKS AND SUPPLIES<sup>2</sup></b>	\$1,080 PER ACADEMIC YEAR		
<b>FOOD<sup>3</sup></b> Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 976 / MO \$ 8,780 / YR	ACTUAL INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES	\$ 602 / MO \$ 5,416 / YR
<b>HOUSING<sup>4</sup></b> Per Month: Per Year:	INCLUDED IN ABOVE		\$ 1,240 / MO \$ 11,164 / YR
<b>TRANSPORTATION<sup>5</sup></b> Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 104 / MO \$ 938 / YR	\$ 36 / MO \$ 324 / YR	\$ 95 / MO \$ 858 / YR
<b>PERSONAL / MISC<sup>6</sup></b> Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 358 / MO \$ 3,225 / YR	\$ 290 / MO \$ 2,609 / YR	\$ 420 / MO \$ 3,784 / YR
<b>CHILD / DEPENDENT CARE</b>	REASONABLE EXPENSES WITH ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE STUDENT, DEPENDING UPON AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
<b>LOAN FEES</b>	FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS, ACTUAL OR AVERAGE LOAN ORIGINATION AND INSURANCE		
<b>TOTAL</b> , Excluding Allowances based on actual institutional charges Per Month: Per Year:	\$ 1,558 / MO \$ 14,023 / YR	\$ 446 / MO \$ 4,013 / YR	\$ 2,478 / MO \$ 22,302 / YR



# SEARS 2018-19

- Generous grant from College Futures Foundation to revive and revise SEARS
- Worked with Mathematica on survey design, conversion to web, marketing strategy, data collection and analysis, focus groups, and piloting
- Survey given and data collected between Fall 2018-Spring 2019
- 57 question, branched survey instrument

# Survey Topics

- Housing expenses
- Transportation expenses
- Miscellaneous expenses
- Expenses for books and supplies
- Food expenses and food assistance
- Financial resources
- Uptake of government assistance programs
  
- By student background/demographics
- By higher ed segment, regional geography

# Response Rate

Segment	Participating Institutions	Students Sampled	Respondents	Response Rate
AICCU	19	21,532	3,154	14.6%
CCC	55	81,157	6,608	8.1%
CSU	23	33,949	4,265	12.6%
PCC	4	1,430	137	9.6%
UC	9	12,385	1,255	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>150,453</b>	<b>15,419</b>	<b>10.2%</b>

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# Priorities for Initial Analysis

**How do students' reported expenses and perception of ability to meet their expenses vary for key subgroups?**

- Micro-region
- Higher education segment
- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- With and without dependents
- Older and younger students
- Working status

## ***What so far has been the biggest obstacle for you to be successful in college?***

- Cost of college
- Balancing school and work responsibilities
- Balancing school and family responsibilities
- Classes are too difficult
- Too little support from college
- Too little support from family
- Other obstacles
- No major obstacles

Students report the **cost of attending college** and **balancing school and work** are the biggest obstacles to being successful.

**33%**

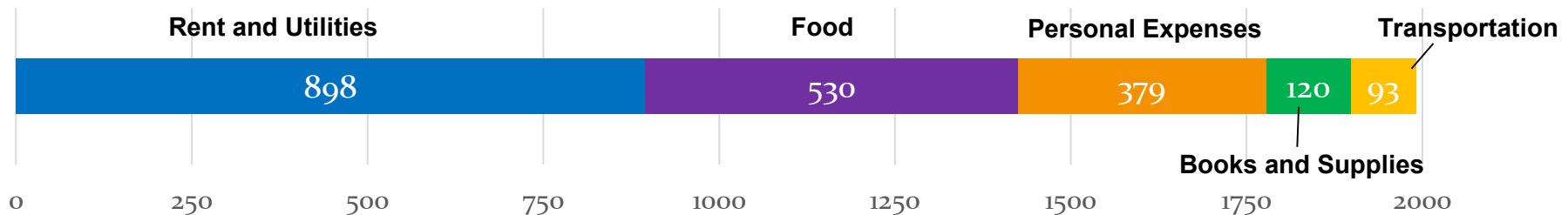
cost of college

**31%**

balancing school  
and work

## Students report spending \$2,020/month for non-tuition expenses associated with attending college

- Students report their expenses for books and supplies, food, housing, transportation, and personal expenses
- On average, students reported spending \$2,020 per month for expenses in those categories



## 1 in 3 students have experienced food or housing insecurity within the last 30 days

**35%**

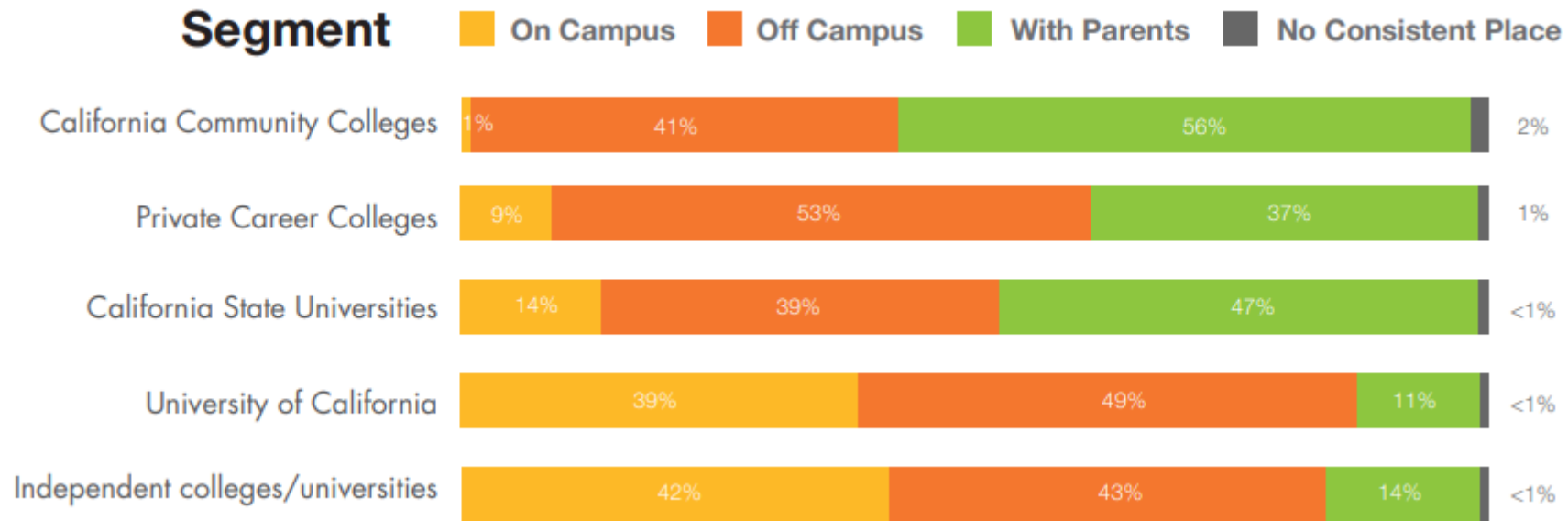
Low/very low food  
security

**35%**

Housing insecure



# Housing



- 75% of students age 21 and under across all segments either live on campus or with their parents.

# Housing Insecurity

“It's been tough and hard to eat balanced meals and have a stable place to live. I had to couch surf for several weeks and sleep in my car due to lack of money.

*Student, East Bay*

## Housing challenges students encountered within the last 30 days:

21%

said they did not pay the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill

18%

said there was a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay

10%

said they did not pay or underpaid their rent or mortgage

10%

said they lived in a house or apartment with more people than were listed on the lease or rental agreement

5%

said they moved in with others, even for a little while, because of financial problems

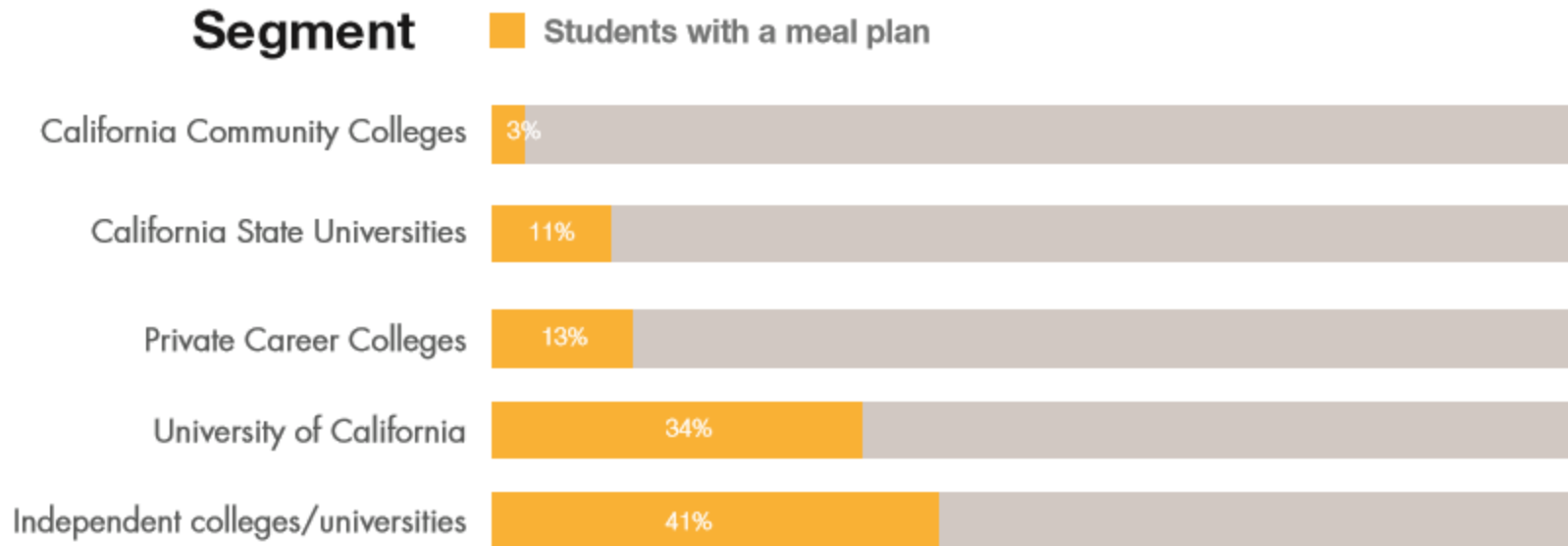
2%

said they moved two times or more

1%

said they had no consistent place to sleep (e.g. homeless, couch-surfing, living in a car/shelter)

# Food



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# Food Insecurity

“I love school. And I will not eat just to pay for school.”  
*Student, Orange County*

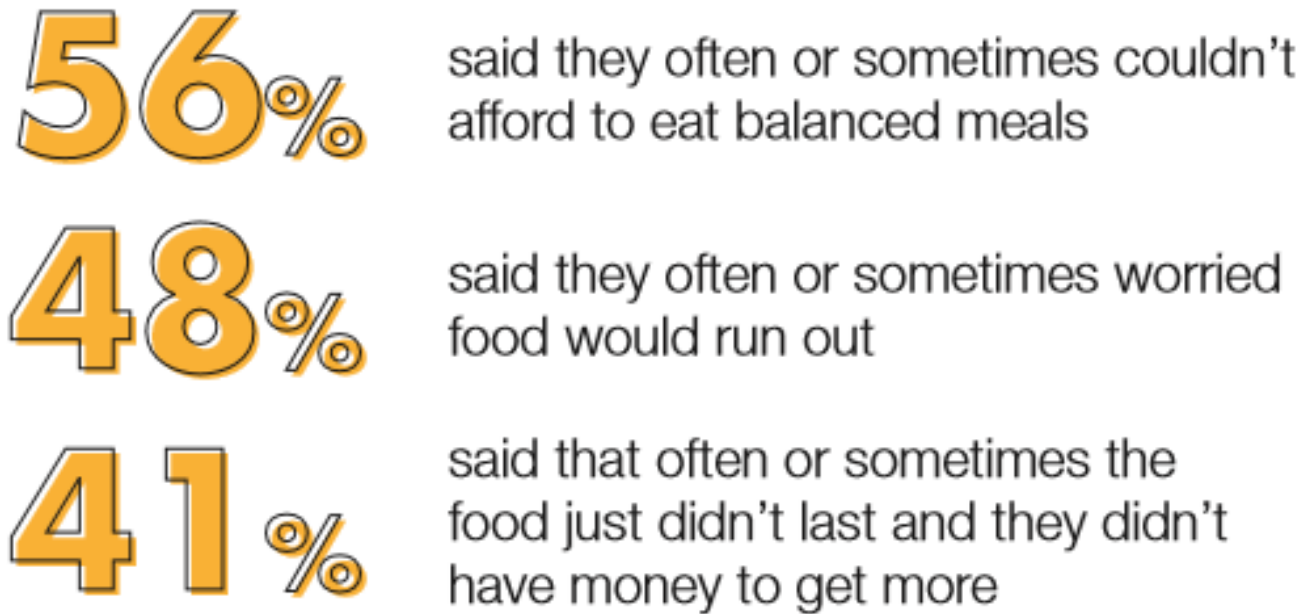
“I have not bought books/school supplies to be able to pay rent/food.”  
*Student, Northern Inland*

Students' level of food security was classified based on the number of affirmative responses to a set of 10 questions<sup>2</sup> and students with very low or low food security levels were considered food insecure.

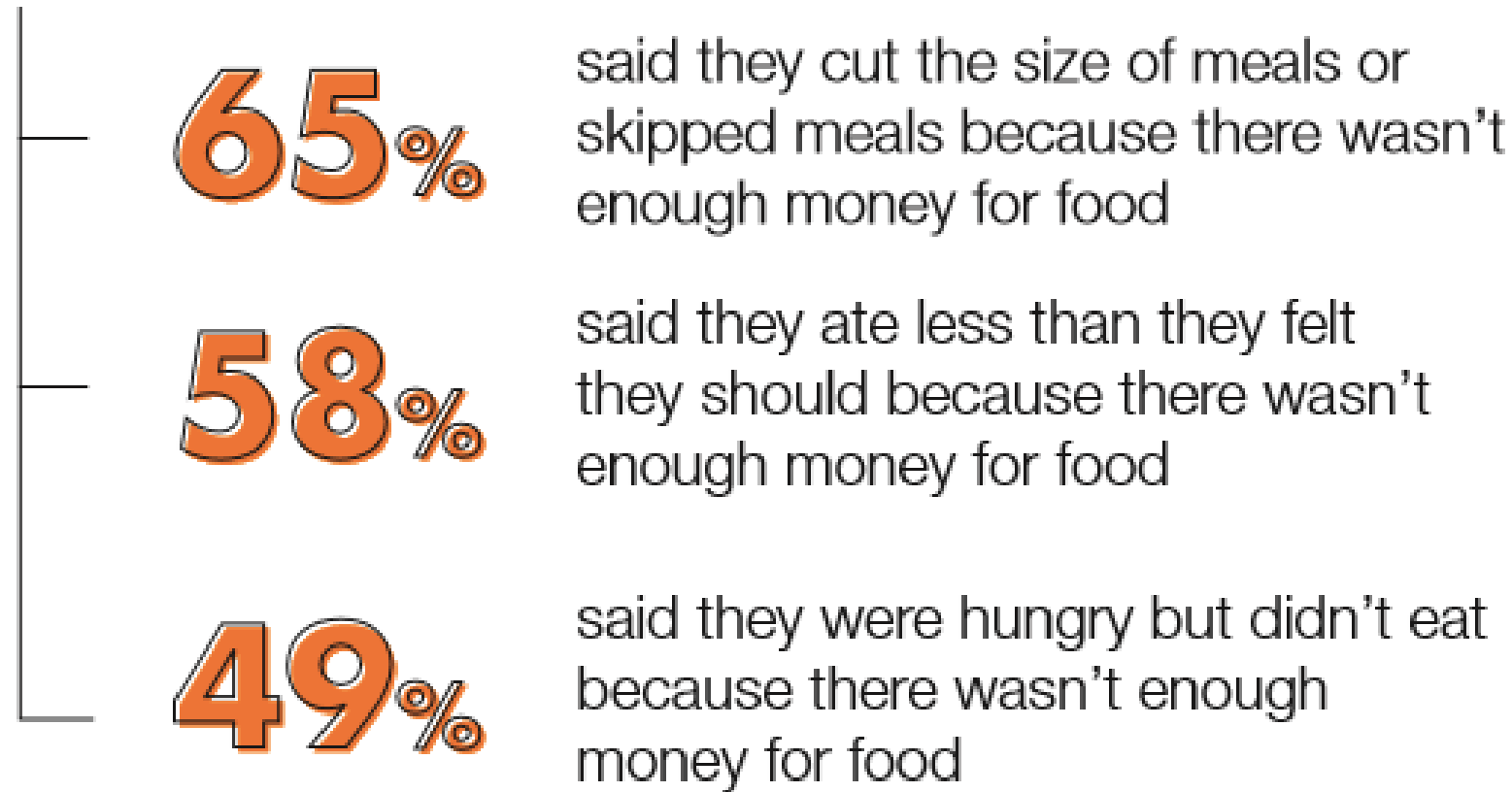


Overall, 22% of students reported very low food security, and 13% of students reported low food security, for a total of **35%** of students experiencing food insecurity.

## The survey asked about specific challenges students encountered with food within the last 30 days:



## Of those who responded often or sometimes true to any of the above:



Among all students surveyed, **87%**  
did not receive any food assistance.

Among food insecure students, **82%**  
did not receive any food assistance.

# Region

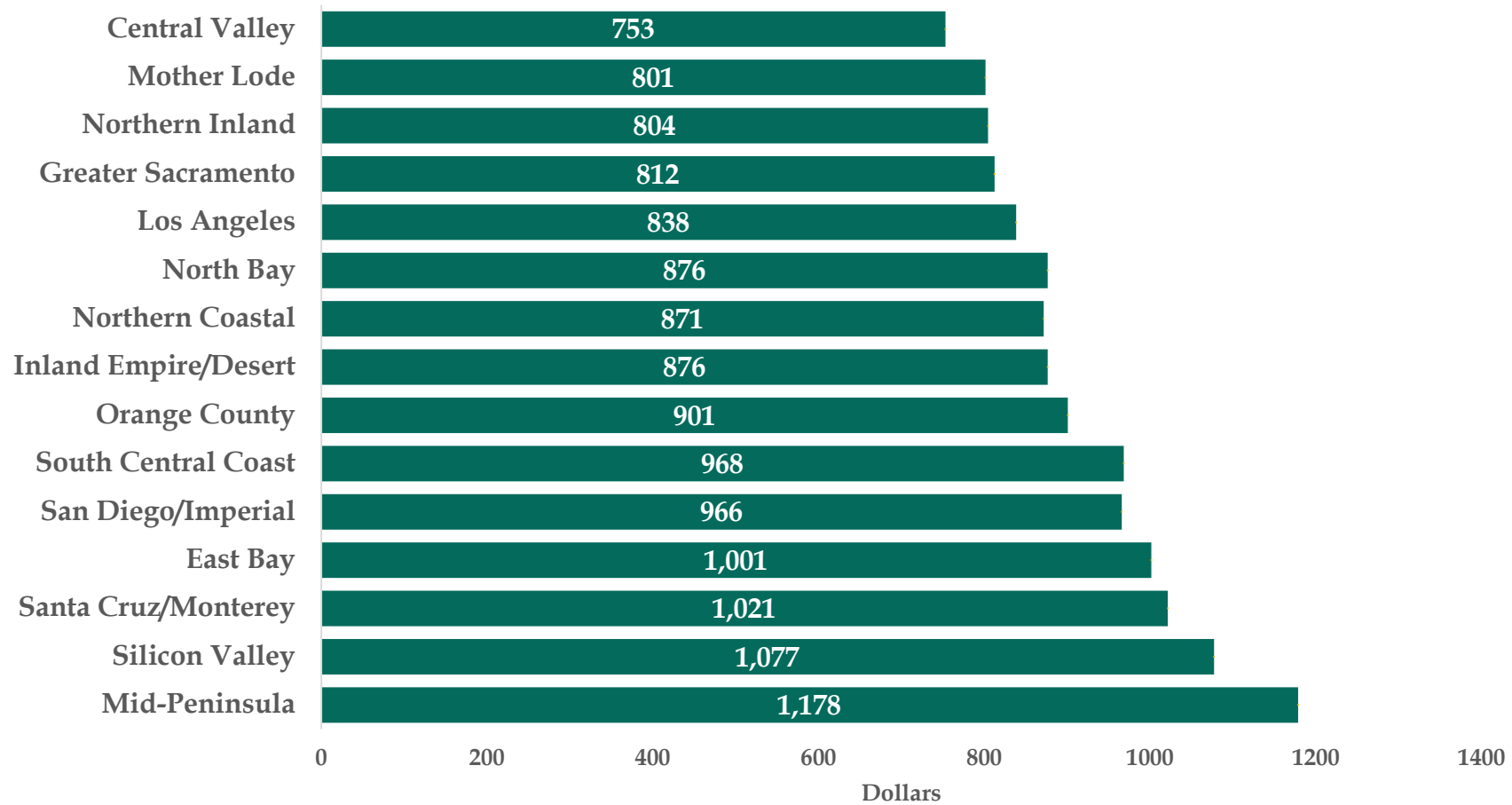
Micro-region	Macro-region
Northern Coastal	North Far North
Northern Inland	North Far North
Greater Sacramento	North Far North
East Bay	Bay Region
North Bay	Bay Region
Mid-Peninsula	Bay Region
Santa Cruz/Monterey	Bay Region
Silicon Valley	Bay Region
Central Valley	Central
Mother Lode	Central
South Central Coast	South Central
Los Angeles	Los Angeles and Orange County
Orange County	Los Angeles and Orange County
Inland Empire/Desert	Inland Empire/Desert
San Diego/Imperial	San Diego and Imperial



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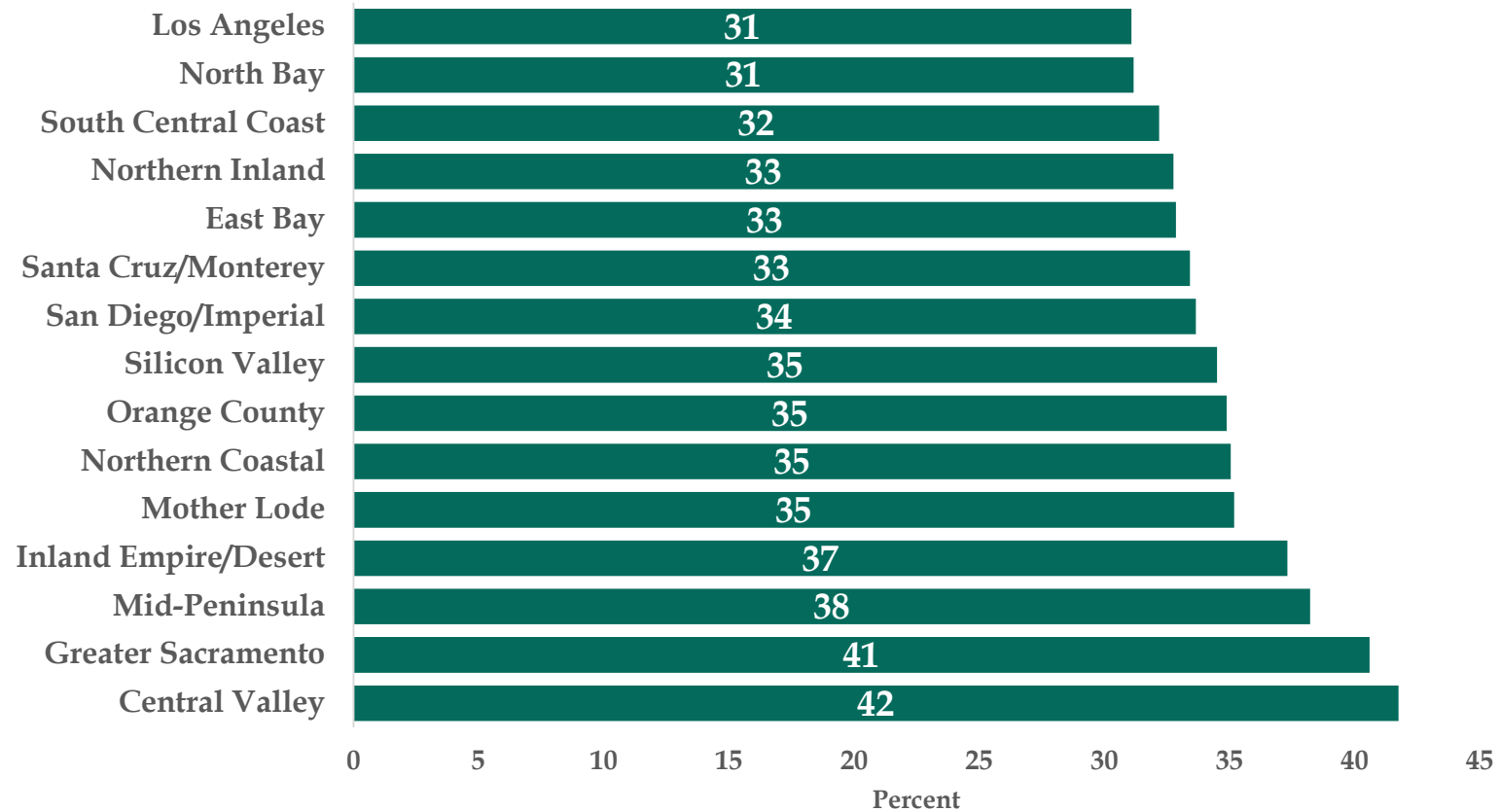


## Monthly Housing Expenses by Micro-region



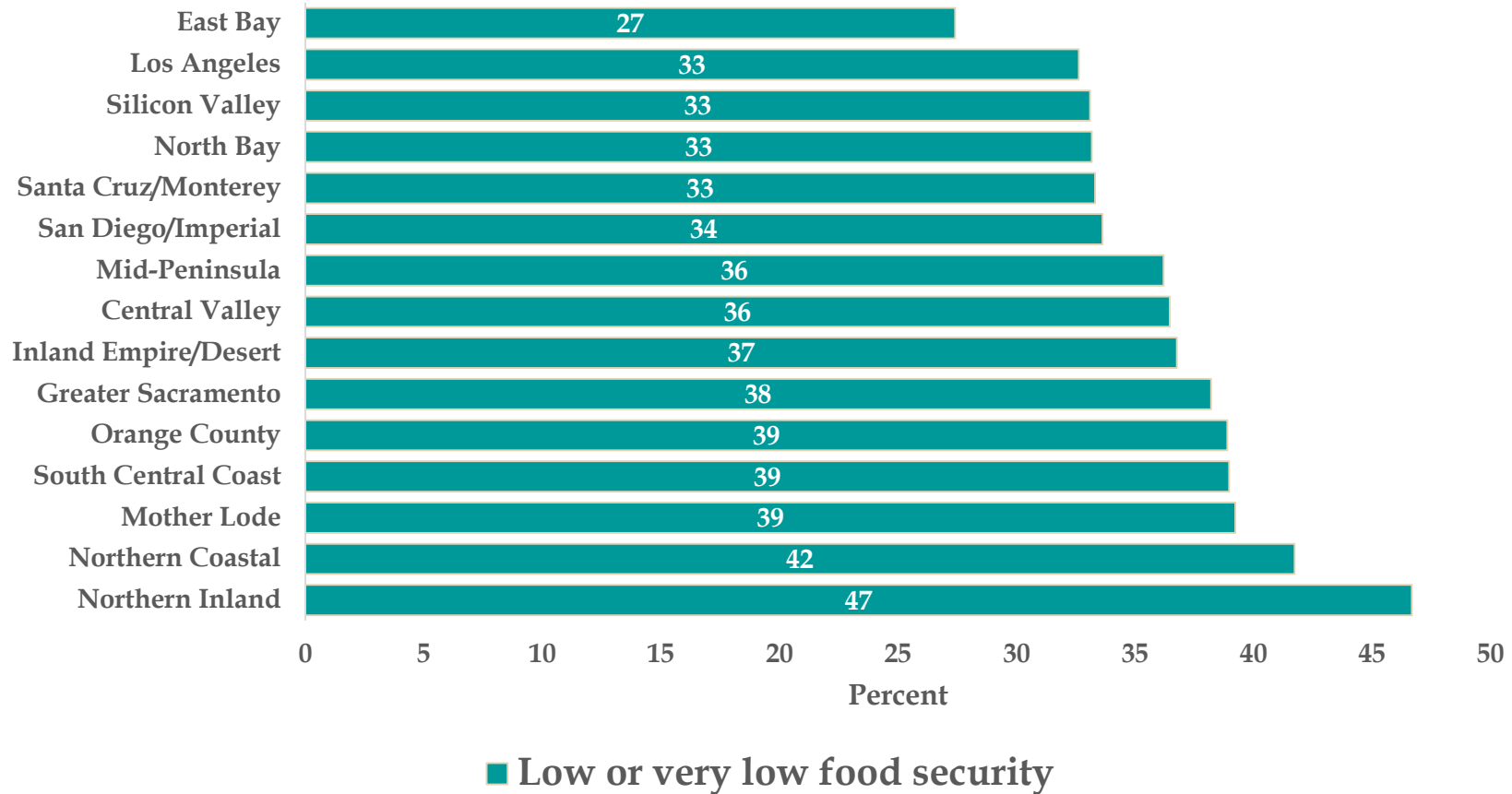
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## Housing Insecurity by Micro-region



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## Low Food Security by Micro-region



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## **Students with dependents and students who are 25 or older report higher expenses and higher levels of insecurity**

- Students with dependents face significantly higher costs compared to those without, **\$3,103 vs. \$1,830** per month
- Students who are 25 and older spend around **\$2,691** per month compared to **\$1,734** spent by younger students
- **Both older students and those with dependents report more insecurity and more challenges meeting their expenses than their counterparts**

# Next Steps

- **Series of SEARS Research Briefs under development**
  - Housing, Food Insecurity, Transportation, First-Generation Students spotlight
  - Regional breakdowns of costs
- **Cal Grant Reform Work Group**
  - SEARS data will help inform priorities for financial aid reform
  - Cal Grant Reform Workgroup has completed its work and will send recommendation(s) forward to the CSAC, Governor, and Legislature (March-April)

## Contact Us:

**Patrick Perry**

Director of Policy, Research, & Data

[pperry@csac.ca.gov](mailto:pperry@csac.ca.gov)

[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)



# The California College Promise: A Promise to What, for Whom, and Where?

Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, UCLA

Austin Lyke, UCLA



# California College Promise: What, Whom, and Where?

- Promise programs have existed since the 1950s but have proliferated in the last decade across the U.S.
- In 2017, California established its own free program called the California College Promise (AB 19) to respond to concerns about **affordability** as well as broader **inequities** that result in lower rates of college access and attainment among the most vulnerable groups of students, including (but not limited to) low-income students, immigrant students, English language learners, students of color, first-generation students, LGBTQ students, returning veterans, and foster youth.



# The Promise Landscape in California

What we learned from looking descriptively at some promise programs in CA is that:

- Promise programs in California are not necessarily universal and have tremendous variation in their definition and structure (e.g., goals, design, scope, funding, beneficiaries, etc.).
- Implementation of promise programs varies widely, depending on institutional and regional capacities and resources.
- Extensive eligibility requirements affect who can benefit from various promise programs.
- Virtually no research exists that examines the impact, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity dimensions of California's numerous promise programs.

# What is the California College Promise?

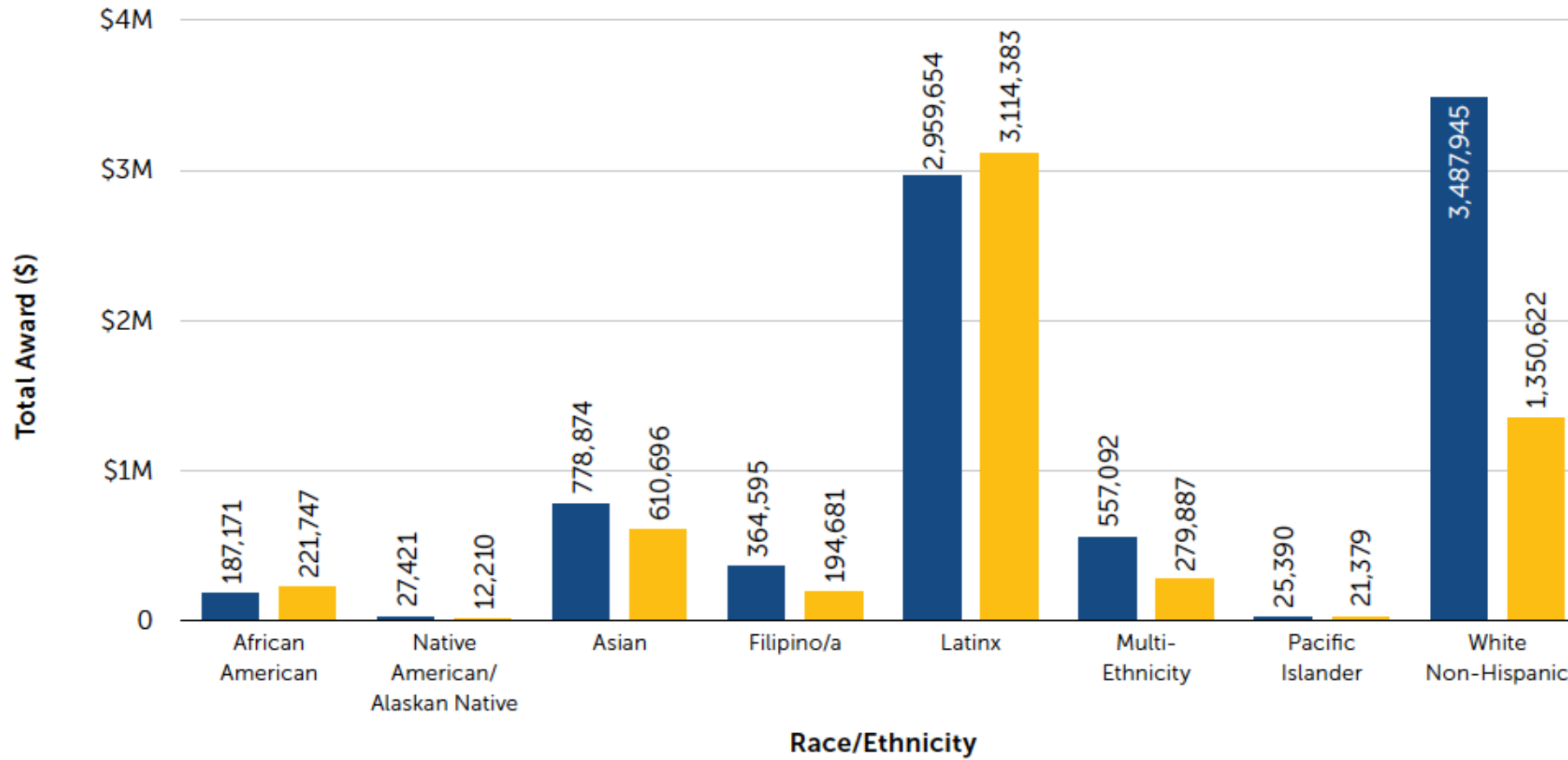
The California College Promise program established through AB 19 is distinct from existing state financial aid sources in that it provides districts/colleges with funds to waive some or all tuition and fees for a significant subset of students (i.e., first-time, full-time students who complete a financial aid application) if the district chooses to use funds for student financial aid.

# How are Colleges Implementing AB 19?

- In 2018–19, 105 colleges received AB 19 funds. This number is expected to grow in the next years. Of those colleges, 65 institutions awarded financial aid to students using AB 19 funds.
- Programs are relatively new—56 percent of them have only existed for one or two years.
- Most students benefitting from AB 19 are first-time, full-time students.
- Colleges are using funds in a variety of ways. The top three spending categories include: tuition and/or fees, hiring of staff, and educational costs (most commonly textbook vouchers, transportation assistance, and food vouchers)
- Colleges are combining various streams of funding (e.g., AB 19 with the Student-Centered Funding Formula) to provide comprehensive supports for students.
- Colleges report significant equity concerns, specifically that students benefitting from the program are not the ones who need it most (e.g., low-income students of color).

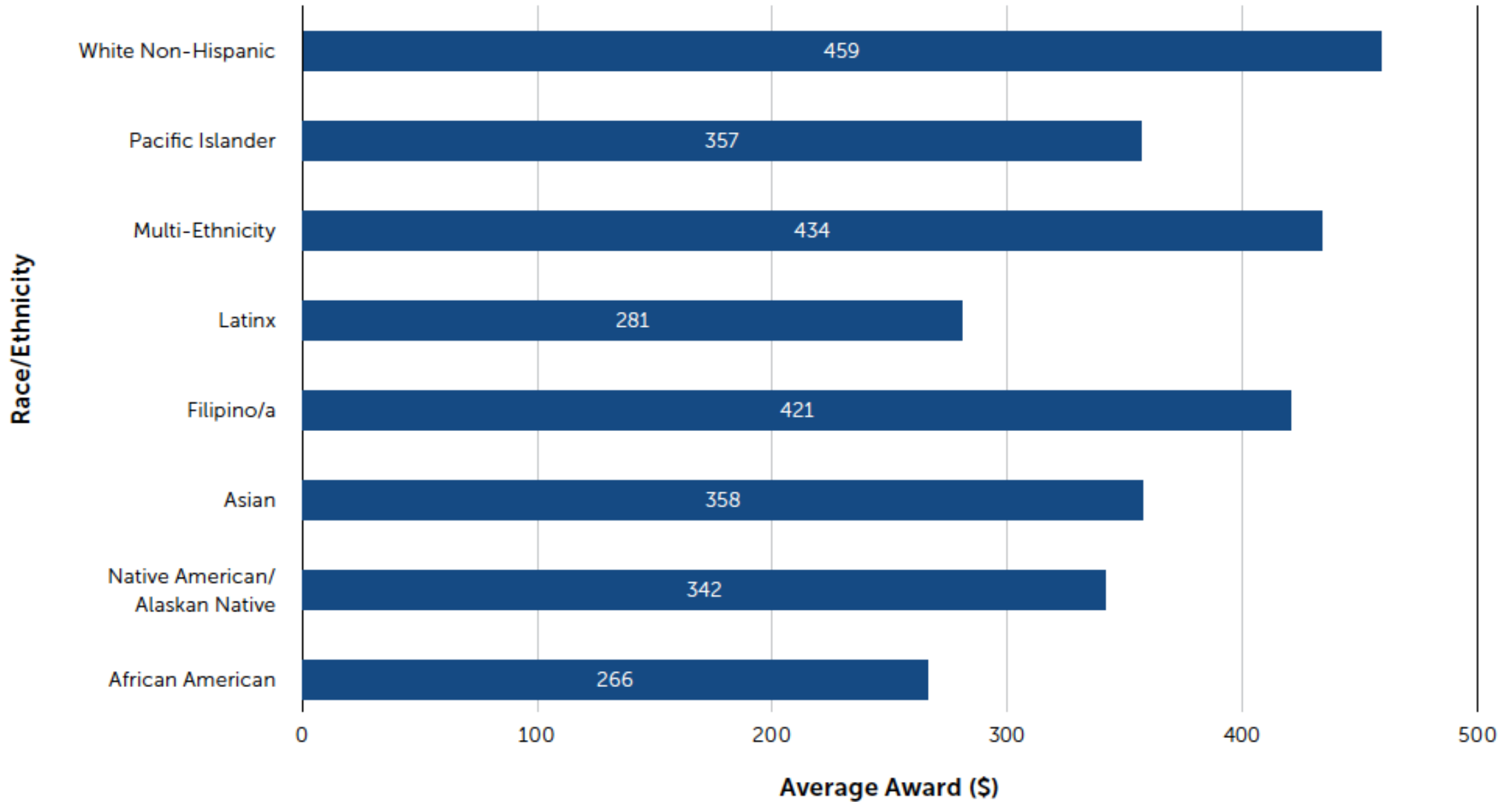
# A Promise to What and for Whom?

Figure 2. Total Award Amounts by Race/Ethnicity



Award: ■ California College Promise (AB19) Fee Waiver ■ Other Grant: California College Promise (AB19) Source

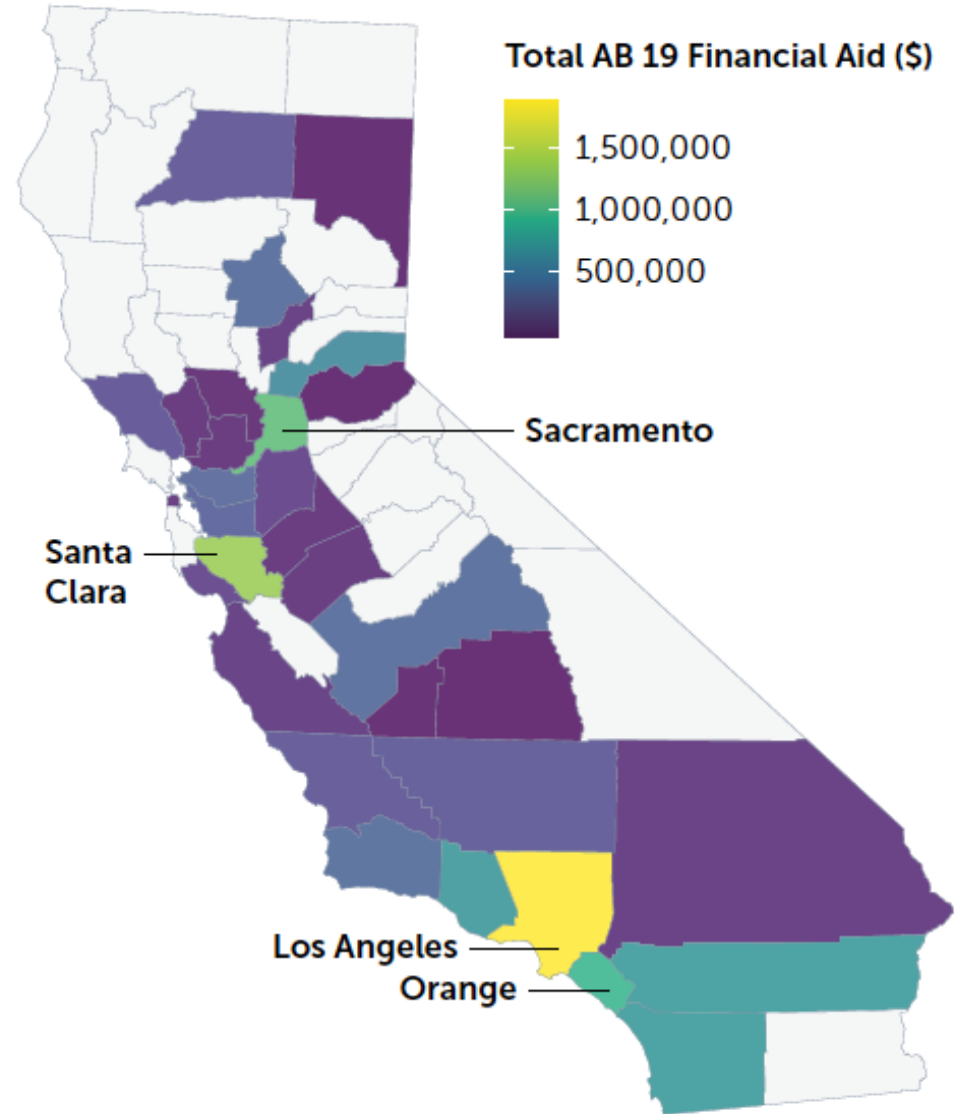
**Figure 3.** Average Awards by Race/Ethnicity



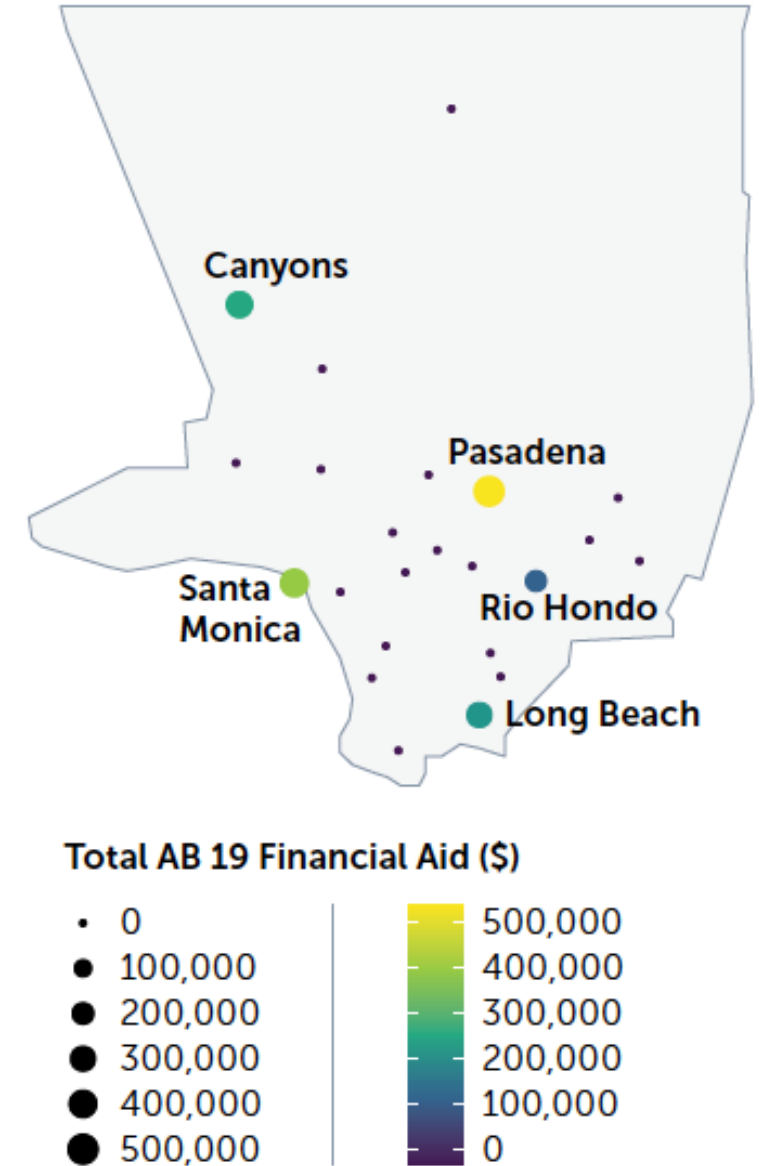
# Where?

- Over 40 per allocated di four Califor Orange

**Figure 4.** Geography of AB 19 Funds Awarded in California



**Figure 5.** Geography of AB 19 Funds Awarded in LA County



# Recommendations

- Revise eligibility criteria
- Invest in a public campaign to clarify what is being promised and to whom
- Invest in studies that examine the impact, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity dimensions of the program

# Panelist Q&A



Tammeil Gilkerson,  
President of Laney  
College



Johanna Lacoé, Research  
Director, California Policy  
Lab



Patrick Perry, Division Chief  
of Policy, Research & Data,  
California Student Aid  
Commission



Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, Associate  
Dean for Equity & Inclusion and  
Professor of Education, UCLA  
Graduate School of Education &  
Information Studies Faculty  
Director, PACE



# Table conversation

- Introductions
  - Your name & role
- Discussion questions
  - What messages need to be sent to students, families, and communities about the current initiatives (at both state and local levels) to address issues of college affordability?
  - How can policy-makers and institutions ensure that programs/financial aid/grants/scholarships will reach vulnerable and marginalized groups of students?
  - How can we strengthen partnerships across regions to support existing efforts to address issues of college affordability?

# Group Shareout

# Next up...!

- Quick break: coffee, tea, and snacks
- Be back downstairs in the Magnolia Ballroom by **3:00pm** for the closing keynote: *Paul Tough*