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## **New Report Finds Most Eligible Cal Grant Applicants are Not Offered Awards Broad Coalition Releases Analysis and Recommendations to Strengthen College Grant Program**

Californians for College Affordability, a broad coalition of student, civil rights, business, workforce, and college access organizations, today [released a new analysis](#) of how Cal Grants could better serve low-income college students in California.

The Cal Grant program provides \$2 billion in need-based financial aid to hundreds of thousands of low- and middle-income students each year. However, the *majority* of eligible applicants – those who apply for Cal Grants and meet the academic and financial requirements – do not receive grant offers. In 2014-15, about 280,000 eligible applicants did not receive grant offers, compared to about 200,000 that received offers. Additionally, grants for many low-income students have not kept pace with college costs: the grant that most low-income students receive, an “access” award that helps students pay for college costs beyond tuition, was \$1,656 in 2015-16, about one-quarter of its original purchasing power.

“Important, incremental changes to Cal Grants have been made in recent years, but the state must do more to support equitable educational opportunities and outcomes,” said Debbie Cochrane, research director with The Institute for College Access & Success, which leads the coalition.

The report includes specific Cal Grant recommendations to increase the size of awards that help the lowest income students pay for books and other non-tuition expenses; serve more of the state’s Cal Grant eligible students; and provide first-year tuition awards for all low-income grant recipients.

Cosponsors of the report include the following members of Californians for College Affordability:

Bay Area Council  
California Community College  
Association of Student Trustees  
California Competes  
California EDGE Coalition  
California Homeless Youth Project  
California State Conference of the NAACP  
CALPIRG  
California State Student Association  
The Campaign for College Opportunity  
EARN  
The Education Trust–West

The Institute for College Access & Success  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
MALDEF  
NAACP Los Angeles  
Public Advocates Inc.  
Southern California College Access Network  
Student Senate for California Community  
Colleges  
uAspire  
University of California Student Association  
Young Invincibles

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*Californians for College Affordability, a broad coalition of student, civil rights, business, workforce, and college access organizations, works to strengthen need-based financial aid in California so that all students can afford to attend and complete college, allowing the state’s workforce to remain competitive.*

*An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see [www.ticas.org](http://www.ticas.org) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*