



STATEMENT OF DEBBIE COCHRANE  
Executive Vice President  
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)

CONTACTS: [Shannon Serrato](#), 510-318-7915  
[Angelique Palomar](#), 510-318-7907  
[Lisa Lederer](#), 202-371-1999

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## **Statement on California Governor Newsom's 2019-20 Budget Proposal**

“With widespread agreement that college in California is unaffordable, Governor Gavin Newsom has today proposed a critical ‘down payment’ on expanding and strengthening the state Cal Grant program. His budget proposal would modestly increase the number of Cal Grants available to nontraditional students, hundreds of thousands of whom are currently turned away due to insufficient state funding. It would also provide much-needed additional support to particularly vulnerable student populations, including significantly increased Cal Grant awards for student parents and investments to address student hunger and housing needs. As important as these initial budget proposals are, equally important is the Governor’s commitment to build upon this down payment with additional investments to bring total college costs within reach for low-income students.

“These affordability investments are part of an overall package that also makes investments in institutions to increase students’ access to higher education and support more equitable and timely degree completion. The budget also provides \$10 million to begin implementing a long overdue state longitudinal data system – cradle to career – an essential component for improving transparency and assessing state progress toward key education and workforce goals. Other important provisions for higher education include additional funding for the new California College Promise program and conducting proactive outreach to students about their financial aid and student loan repayment options.

“We stand ready to support and expand upon these initial proposals from Governor Newsom, in the budget year and beyond.”

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*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 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](#).*