



The California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition is composed of educators, community allies, and students working to strengthen California’s workforce and economy by ensuring college access and success for undocumented youth in the state.

Estimates suggest over 75,000 undocumented students are enrolled in California public colleges and universities. Losing, or even underutilizing, these talented students poses a threat for California's workforce and economy, as the state is already poised to be 1.65 million college educated workers short by 2030. Supporting undocumented students reinforces both California’s economy and its values.

## 2019 Coalition Policy Priorities

### Address the Lack of Financial Aid for Undocumented Students

Because undocumented students are ineligible for any form of federal financial aid, they face unique challenges in covering college expenses. While growing numbers of students are submitting the California Dream Act Application, less than 15% of all applicants received any state financial aid in 2017-18 according to the California Budget & Policy Center. Despite their eligibility for entitlement Cal Grants, AB 540/undocumented students are ineligible to receive any competitive Cal Grants. Current statute requires that every student that completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and is eligible for aid be awarded before any Dream Act filers receive a competitive Cal Grant award, despite potentially having greater financial need. **California should enact AB 541 (Gabriel) to allow eligible undocumented students to compete for an award just as their peers do, without additional barriers.**

Financial Aid Gaps for Low-Income Students (in U.S. dollars)				
	Financial Aid Gap for California Students	Pell Grant Max	Competitive Cal Grant Max	Financial Aid Gap for Undocumented Students
Community Colleges	6,946	5,775	1,648	14,369
CSU	5,733	5,775	7,120	18,628
UC	5,004	5,775	13,888	24,667

Source: California Student Aid Commission; Campaign for College Opportunity; U.S. Department of Education

Though California established the Dream Loan program to help undocumented undergraduate students enrolled at public universities afford college, these same students are often unable to continue their studies at graduate or professional school due to their cost. **The Coalition urges the extension of Dream Loans and affordable borrowing options to students pursuing graduate or professional education by enacting SB 354 (Durazo).**

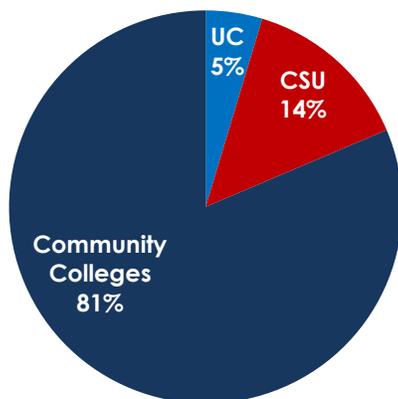
### Provide Meaningful Opportunities to Learn Outside the Classroom

The legal status of undocumented students makes securing opportunities that allow them to build their professional skills and resumes difficult. Unlike their peers, undocumented students are not eligible to participate in the federal Work-Study program. Investing in service-study opportunities would help address the unmet financial needs of undocumented students, as well as provide opportunities to develop career skillsets to be positioned for success after graduation. **We support AB 540 (Limon) to establish a service-incentive grant program to offer grants to students that complete specified volunteer or community service hours and meet academic requirements and urge policymakers to fund this proposal in the 2019-20 State Budget.**

### Ensure Campus & Legal Support for Undocumented Students

While California has established critical programs for undocumented students and established the California Dream Act application so they can safely apply for financial aid, there is a lack of coordination and consistency in how these resources are shared with students. Current campus support staff also report challenges and lacking guidance when implementing state-established programs. Dreamer Resource Liaison positions at California colleges and universities would provide designated on-campus staff to help undocumented students access supports and resources available to help them pursue their education. **We urge policymakers to support AB 1645 (Rubio) and provide funding for campus staff positions focused on serving undocumented students as well as staff positions at each public higher education system office dedicated towards supporting campus staff.**

**Four out of five undocumented students in California are enrolled at a community college**



Source: UC Info Center, CSU Analytic Studies, CCCCCO

California colleges and universities have been vocal in their support for undocumented students but often limited in direct assistance they can provide due to a lack of resources or capacity. The University of California Immigrant Legal Services Center continues to demonstrate success providing legal assistance to its students and their families, opening 57.9% more cases in 2017-18 than in the prior year. However, legal services are increasingly sought by students at the California State University and California Community Colleges, which both enroll greater numbers of undocumented students. Providing on-going support to ensure the financial stability of legal services programs is critical

as cases often take more than a year to resolve. **We strongly support Governor Newsom’s proposal to continue the investments made in these legal services on an on-going basis.**

For more information about the California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition please visit [collegecampaign.org/cuhec](http://collegecampaign.org/cuhec) or contact Jake Brymner ([jake@collegecampaign.org](mailto:jake@collegecampaign.org)) regarding our policy agenda.