DATE: October 3, 2017

TO: Chief Business Officers
    Chief Student Services Officers
    Financial Aid Officers

FROM: Rhonda Mohr
      Interim Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs

SUBJECT: 2017-18 One-time Emergency Aid Funding for Dreamer Students

Note: Any college not wanting to participate in this program to disburse these funds can request non-participation immediately by contacting the Chancellor’s Office no later than Oct 15, 2017.

The Budget Act of 2017 authorized 2017–18 fiscal year appropriations for the support of state government. Assembly Bill 134 (AB 134) has amended the Budget Act of 2017 by clarifying and adding items of appropriation (see attachment #1). The funding described here takes effect immediately as a Budget Bill.

AB 134 provides $7,000,000 in funding for distribution to California Community Colleges for providing emergency aid to students with an identified need, who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under (Ed. Code § 68130.5). This includes AB 540 and AB 2000 eligible students. To receive this emergency student aid, students are required to complete the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) described in subdivision (b) of (Ed. Code § 69508.5). The CADAA is available year round for students eligible under (Ed. Code § 68130.5). Note that US citizens, and eligible non-citizens who qualify for the non-resident tuition waiver under AB 540 are excluded from receiving any emergency funds from this provision.

The Chancellor’s Office encourages Financial Aid Offices to work closely with their campus Dream Act Centers, Student Equity (SE), Student Success and Support Program (SSSP), other student support staff, counselors, and campus advocacy groups to effectively identify and notify students regarding the availability of this funding, and how to access these resources.
Awards and Payments: When awarding aid to qualified Dreamers under this funding, colleges should be aware of the following:

- Colleges shall award direct aid to students as an emergency grant.
- There is no stated award minimum or maximum for direct aid to students, but funding is limited to the district allocated dollars and should best serve the eligible population of students in a local context.
- Statutory eligibility standards for direct aid to students include:
  - (Ed. Code § 68130.5) eligibility providing for exemption from the non-resident fee.
  - Eligibility to file, and the completion of the CADAA. This requirement may be fulfilled at any point prior to the distribution of emergency funding to the student.
  - Demonstrated financial need.
- The statute does not specify any additional eligibility requirement restrictions.
- When awarding direct aid to students, funding must be accounted for as resources in award packaging and payment.
- Un-awarded 2017-18 Dreamer Student funds may be maintained locally for disbursement in the following year under the same guideline requirements and eligibility qualifications.

Allocations: The Chancellor’s Office has allocated these funds on a fair share basis to community college districts based on the number of AB 540 students as of the 2015-16 R1 (see attachment #2). In turn, multi-college districts have the responsibility of allocating funds to the colleges within their district. This allocation should utilize the statewide fair share formula using local data from the R-1 reported AB540 headcounts by college.

Colleges may begin making awards and payments upon receipt of this memo contingent upon the allocation included as an attachment to this memo. We anticipate that these funds will be disbursed to districts from the State Controller’s Office on October 27, 2017. The revenue code for your fiscal offices or fiscal agents is 8620 for “Other Categorical revenue”.

Reporting: Community colleges receiving funding pursuant to the AB 134 augmentation will be required to report aggregate data to the Chancellor’s Office regarding the number of students served, and the amount of financial aid provided at the end of the fiscal year (June 2018). The report format will be forthcoming and provided to financial aid administrators.

Contact: Please contact Student Financial Aid Program staff for questions regarding this memo:
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Attachments:
1. AB 134 Budget Bill Language
2. 2017-18 Dreamer Allocations

cc: Rhonda Mohr, Interim Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs
    CCCCOC Student Services staff