

GOLDEN STATE EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

GUIDE FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Overview

The Golden State Education and Training Grant Program (GSETGP) supports Californians who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic with a one-time grant of \$2,500 to reskill, up-skill, and access educational or training programs to get back into the workforce. The program was established and funded in the 2021 California Budget Act, mainly with one-time federal COVID recovery dollars, to offer this one-time financial incentive. Half of the funds must go to individuals supporting dependent children (a student parent).

The Golden State Education and Training Grant Program was created pursuant to <u>California Education Code</u> (CEC) <u>sections</u> 69670 – 69671.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible individuals:

- 1) Are California residents
- 2) Were displaced from employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 3) Were not enrolled in a training program or institution of higher education at the time they were displaced from employment
- 4) Have been unable to obtain employment that provides an average monthly wage that is equal to or greater than the average monthly wage received from their employment prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 5) Meet the income and asset criteria to be eligible for a <u>Cal Grant A award</u> (pursuant to subdivision (k) of California Education Code Section 69432.7)
- 6) Is enrolled in a qualified education or training program

Of the above requirements, 1-5 will be self-certified by the applicant through their application to the Golden State Education and Training Program. Requirement 6 will be certified by the training provider or institution through WebGrants, the Commission's web-based grant management platform.

Though the completion of the FAFSA/California Dream Act Application is not needed for this program, we encourage students enrolling in college to complete the FAFSA or Dream Act application to qualify for any additional financial assistance.

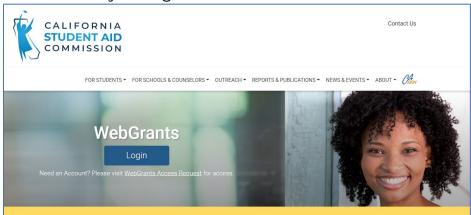
Program participants can only receive <u>one</u> GSETGP Grant. If an applicant was previously found to be ineligible, they are welcome to reapply in the next Academic Year, though that would not guarantee that they will be found to be eligible.

Program Administration

Enrollment Verification

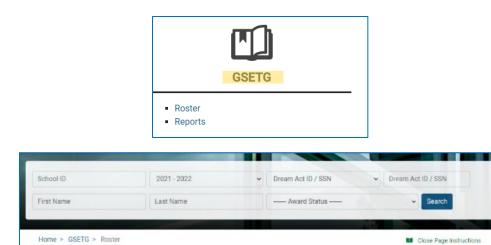
The following entities will be required to verify the enrollment of applicants to the program through <u>WebGrants</u>, the Commission's web-based grant management platform.

- Higher education institutions
 - University of California and University of California Extension Campuses
 - California State University and Continuing Education Programs
 - o California Community College and Noncredit Programs
- Approved Training Providers
- Adult Education Programs
 - Programs affiliated with K12 Education and/or California Community Colleges



Once a training provider has been found to have met the "demonstrated track record" requirement, they will be given access a roster for this program through <u>WebGrants</u> to confirm enrollment status. Enrollment verification should be on the basis of the program participants being enrolled in at least one class between August 2022 and August 2023. The system administrators will be able to give additional users at their institution access to the GSETGP roster.

For higher education programs affiliated with larger higher education institutions, eligible students will be added to the main campus's GSETGP college roster in WebGrants for enrollment verification. For this process, financial aid staff should coordinate with staff members affiliated with adult education or other programs to verify student enrollment together. Alternatively, staff members affiliated with adult education or other programs may be given access in WebGrants by your campus's system administrator to verify enrollment.

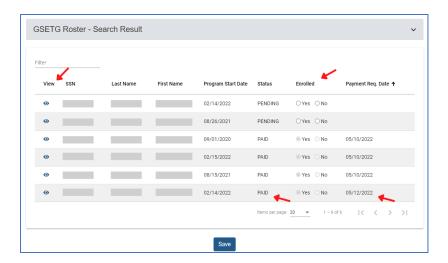


Institutional and training provider users can select "Roster" from the GSETG menu on the WebGrants home page to search for eligible students. The roster will show students who have passed prior eligibility checks (income, displacement date, and program start date). Students at extension, continuing education and main campuses are eligible for this program and will populate on the roster.

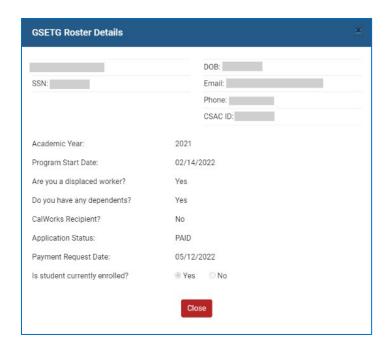
This enrollment should be based off of any term within the 2022-2023 academic year. Students or program participants who withdrew from their classes or were only enrolled in one class/academic term are eligible for the grant, as there is not minimum unit requirement.

Prior to the participant's enrollment being confirmed, their status will read "PENDING." Since participants could be at extension, continuing education and main campuses, users should not mark if a participant is not enrolled at their specific institution. It may be the case that the participant is enrolled at a different campus, and only viewable as a participant in the specific campus's records. Financial aid staff should coordinate with staff members affiliated with adult education or other programs to verify student enrollment together. Alternatively, staff members affiliated with adult education or other programs may be given access in WebGrants by institution's system administrator to verify enrollment.

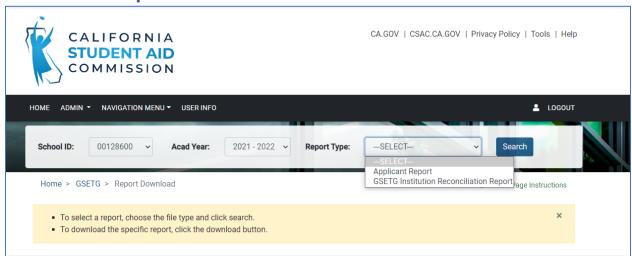
Once a participant's enrollment is confirmed, the payment process is triggered, and their status will read "PAID." If the participant's enrollment is confirmed as a no, their status will read "NOT ENROLLED." The payment request date will populate with the date enrollment was confirmed.



For more information about a specific participant, click the eye icon in the view column.



WebGrants Reports



Selecting "Reports" from the GSETG menu on the WebGrants home page allows training providers and higher education institutions to download an Applicant Report and GSETGP Institution Reconciliation Report. In the Applicant Report, training providers and higher education institutions can view all the applicants for the GSETGP at their respective institution or program, including the reasons that any applicants were determined to be ineligible for the GSETGP. In the GSETGP Institution Reconciliation Report, training providers and higher education institutions can view the applicants at their respective institution or program that were either already paid or are pending enrollment verification.

Grant Disbursement

Once enrollment is verified and the paper check for the participant is received by the training provider or institutions, they must coordinate with the participant to ensure they receive the check.

The exact way institutions choose to disburse the grant funding to participants will depend on the institution. The most common way for higher education institutions have disbursed the grant funding was by arranging specific times for participants to pick up the check from the financial aid office. Alternatively, institutions are welcome to mail the check to their program participant, but first verify that the mailing address for the participant is accurate and consider sending the check through certified mail, as the check replacement process is lengthy.

If a check is lost or there are any issues with payment, email the GSETP Team at gsetgp@csac.ca.gov.

Training Programs Only

Training Program Agreement

To participate in the Golden State Education and Training Grant Program, training providers must be part of <u>EDD's Eligible Training Provider List</u> and submit a Training Program Agreement to CSAC. California's public higher education institutions (California Community Colleges, California State Universities and Universities of California) are not required to submit a Training Program Agreement.

This agreement includes the submission of documentation to the Commission in order to meet the statutory requirement of a "demonstrated track record of having the majority of its participants obtain employment that pays at least a living wage, <u>as calculated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology</u> within one calendar year of program completion," as specified in California Education Code 69670 – 69671.

The Training Program Agreement form can be found on the GSETGP Website (https://www.csac.ca.gov/colleges/gsetgp). Completed forms should be submitted to the GSETP Team at gsetgp@csac.ca.gov. Once programs are found to have met the requirement of a "demonstrated track record," they will be added to the GSETGP Application and other relevant materials.

Higher Education Institutions Only

Administrative Cost Payments

Higher education institutions will receive 1% of the funds allocated to the institution to cover administrative costs. This funding will be processed and sent to campuses following the conclusion of the Academic Year, after CSAC's deadline to verify student enrollment for GSETGP.

Fiscal Management

GSETGP grants must be used to <u>supplement</u> a student's financial aid package and financial supports, and do not offset student's financial aid, public assistance supports or unmet financial need. Funds may not be used to replace any existing or anticipated grant financial resources. Since this grant is a one-time, non-recurring payment, it will not impact a student's public assistance (e.g., CalWORKs) provided that, if the student elects to save the grant, their savings do not exceed the \$10,000 statutory maximum.

The GSETGP Grants are considered disaster relief payments. While CSAC does not believe these payments are income subject to federal taxation, institutions should consult with their own counsel to confirm.

As specified by the United States Department of Education, the grant is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes.