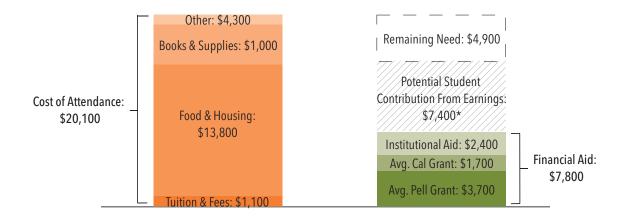
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MARCH 2019 | BY AMY ROSE

Low-Income Students Face Considerable Unmet Financial Need at California Community Colleges (CCC)

Average Statewide Cost of Attending CCC Full-Time Compared to Financial Aid, 2018-19



^{*} Assumes student earns \$11 per hour and works 15 hours per week during school year and 40 hours per week during summer. Reflects deductions for taxes and some summer expenses.

Note: Living costs reflect annual estimates for residents living off campus. Institutional aid reflects the Promise Grant and the Student Success Grant. "Other" reflects transportation and personal/miscellanous expenses. Figures are inflation-adjusted to 2018-19 dollars as needed, rounded to the nearest hundred, and may not sum. Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, California Employment Development Department, California Student Aid Commission, and National Postsecondary Student Aid Study

- The cost of attending CCC includes more than tuition and fees. Students pursuing a college degree also face student-related living costs such as books and supplies, food, housing, and transportation. The total cost of attendance can exceed \$20,000 per year.
- Most financial aid is linked primarily to tuition and falls short in addressing student-related living costs. Federal, state, and campus-based aid covers less than 40% of the annual cost of attendance, leaving low-income students to cover over \$12,000 in expenses.
- Addressing students' unmet financial need is essential to their college success. Policymakers could focus financial aid on the total cost of attendance not just tuition to ensure higher education remains affordable and accessible for all Californians.

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