

Recovery Block Grant Allowable Expenditures

Funds from this block grant can be expended for any of the following purposes:

- Support access to basic needs and mental health services for students impacted by COVID-19.
- Reengagement strategies for students who received an incomplete or failing grade in the spring 2022 due to COVID-19
- Engagement strategies with high schools and local communities to restore broader access.
- Grants to faculty for development of online, accelerated learning modules to allow students who received an incomplete or failing grade in the spring 2022 term due to COVID-19 to make progress toward their degrees instead of retaking courses in the fall 2022 term.
- Professional development opportunities for faculty and student services professionals to continue educational instruction due to COVID-19, including supporting students impacted by learning loss and preparing and supporting faculty to develop online instructional capabilities in response to COVID-19.
- Investments in information technology infrastructure, facilitating students' access to technology to be able to access online coursework, and technology, software, or other electronic instruments and materials for faculty to support courses that are difficult to teach online.
- Cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.
- Discharge unpaid fees due or owed by a student to a community college in the district.

Other Considerations and Potential Uses

Districts have many options to use block grant funds on strategies that directly support community college students and mitigate disruptions to persistence. Below are other allowable uses that districts can also consider.

- Increase online student service hours to evenings and weekends. Increased availability and access to student supports on evenings and weekends, without the need to drive to campus, has been an effective strategies deployed by many districts in the last two years.
- Block grant funds can be used to maintain and expanded access to academic support services, including student counseling, tutoring, and mental health services.
- Help meet students' financial and basic needs. The pandemic-era has reinforced the urgency to connect students to financial aid and basic needs supports. For students who have not completed the FAFSA or California Dream Act application (CADAA), these resources provide flexibility to directly support and connect student to all available resources.
- Further, expand eligibility criteria for CalFresh food assistance benefits enables more community college students to qualify.
- Colleges can align FAFSA/CADAA assistance with efforts to help more students apply for CalFresh. Coupled with campus basic needs centers, these strategies provide yet another tool for holistically supporting students.
- Professional development focused on culturally responsive campuses and classrooms. The block grant allows colleges to invest in professional development to enhance teaching and student supports. Colleges can invest in practices that explore strategies and initiatives for incorporating students' cultural backgrounds and experiences, providing inclusive environments
- Provide direct emergency grants to students in need. Similar to federal stimulus funds, block grant dollars may be used to provide emergency grants or learning tools (such as laptops) to students.