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Low-Income Students Face Considerable Unmet Financial Need at the California State University (CSU)

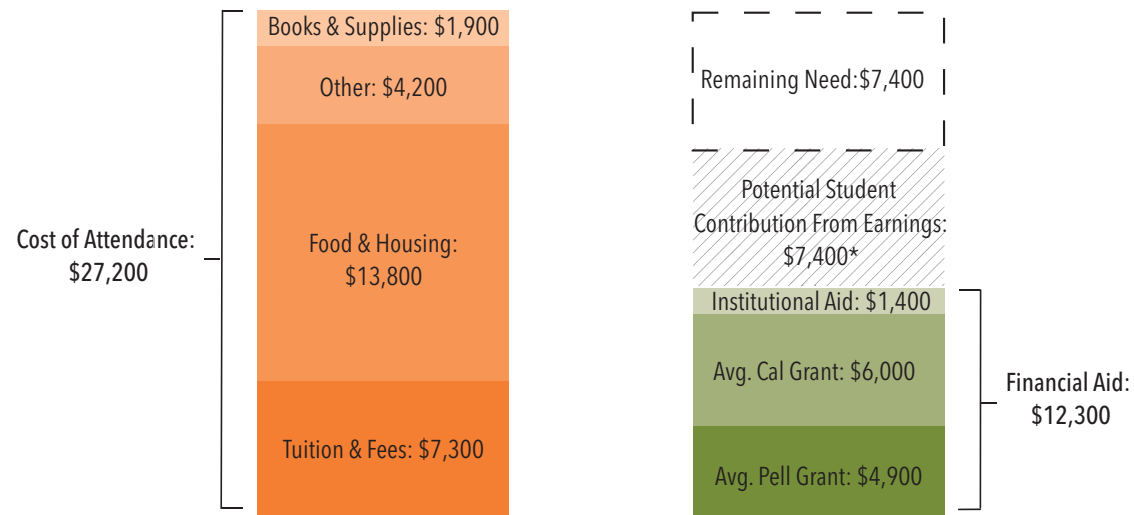
Average Statewide Cost of Attending CSU Full-Time Compared to Financial Aid, 2018-19

- The cost of attending CSU 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 \$27,000 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 roughly 45% of the annual cost of attendance, leaving low-income students to cover nearly \$15,000 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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* 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 sophomore resident undergraduates living off campus. Institutional Aid reflects the State Institutional Grant. "Other" reflects transportation and personal/miscellaneous expenses. Figures are inflation-adjusted to 2018-19 dollars as needed, rounded to the nearest hundred, and may not sum.
Source: California Employment Development Department, California State University, California Student Aid Commission, and National Postsecondary Student Aid Study