



MARCH 2019 | BY AMY ROSE

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

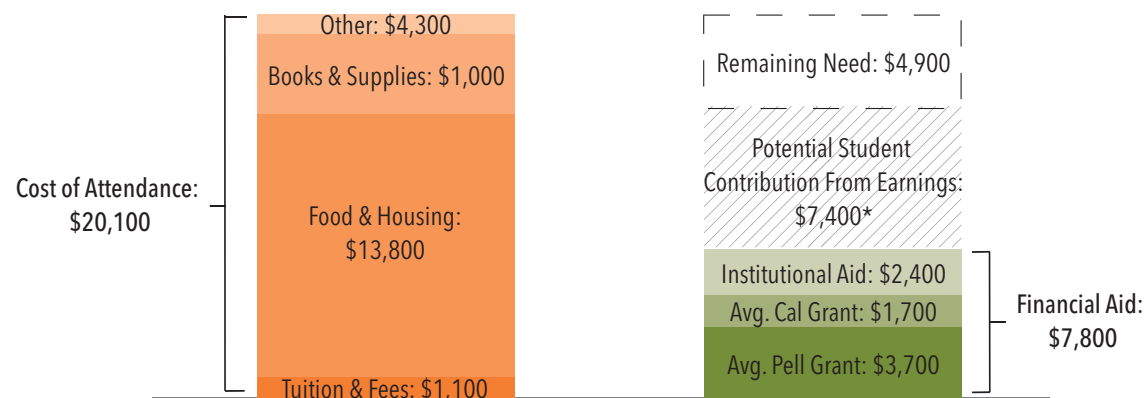
Average Statewide Cost of Attending CCC Full-Time Compared to Financial Aid, 2018-19

- 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.

CALIFORNIA BUDGET & POLICY CENTER
calbudgetcenter.org



* 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/miscellaneous 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