

CA - PMM

Project Name: Expand External Interfaces - Web Services with Educational Institutions

OCIO Project #: 7980-

Department: California Student Aid Commission

Revision Date:

Concept Statement

Description

Brief description of the proposed project:

This project is will be done in collaboration with the Educational Institutions to develop a web service interface with all of the Educational Institutions for sending and receiving financial aid information. This would allow CSAC and the Educational Institutions the ability to share any information required by the California Education Code for processing all grant types for the State of California.

Need Statement

High Level Functional Requirements:

CSAC will develop an interface via web services with the all of the Educational Institutions. The solution will provide CSAC and all of the Educational Institutions the ability to use web services to share data necessary to processes financial aid applications. Each year the multiple list (eligible schools, teacher credential dates, low income schools, etc.) of data necessary to process grant applications for multiple grant types is provide to CSAC from CDE. The Educational Institutions use this data to calculate financial eligibility of students. The web services functionality will provide a secure data transfer of data to each Educational Institutions seamlessly.

What is Driving This Need?

This solution will provide a seamless transfer of data timely for Educational Institutions to calculate financial aid..

Risk to the Organization if This Work is Not Done:

The CSAC would continue to send and receive various data files from the Educational Institutions via WebGrants so Educational Institutions will still get the data but will have to manually download the data. The problem is the timely submission of this data to CSAC for processing applications. By keeping the data manual, the possibility of using incorrect data for processing applicants is more likely.

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Benefit Statement

Intangible Benefits

Process Improvements (describe the nature of the process improvement):

The project will utilize the existing CalGrant infrastructure and tables to receive the information. CSAC will expand the web services functionality to incorporate the data sharing with all of the Educational Institutions. This project would eliminate the manual intervention of importing the data and the time delay of receiving the data.

Other Intangible Benefits:

Students using the CSAC web sites to view eligible school lists and other resources will have up to date information.

Tangible Benefits

Revenue Generation (describe how revenue will be generated):

To eliminate the possibility of erroneously approving application to in eligible schools.

Cost Savings (describe how cost will be reduced):

The cost saving will go to the State for not having to use labor hours in importing the data to the database daily. CSAC will also eliminate the possibility of using wrong year information for processing applications..

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Cost Avoidance (describe the cost and how avoided):
 Utilizing experienced CSAC staff to develop the FAFSA Interface program instead of hiring consultants reduced the costs of the overall project. The CSAC staff had existing knowledge of the CalGrant system and requirements. Any hired vendor would have to learn the CalGrants system, Specialized Programs requirements and California Educational Code to be able to utilize the shared tables and stored procedures.

Risk Avoidance (describe the risk and how avoided):
 CSAC should collaborate with the Educational Institutions to ensure we gather information accurately. CSAC should preplan the project not wait until we have changed experienced staff or no time and budget to complete the project.

Improved Services:
 CSAC will work with the Educational Institutions to ensure interface development between CSAC and the Educational Institutions becomes a seamless process and keeps all data tables updated annually.

Consistency

"No" Responses 		Rationale	Action Required
Enterprise Architecture	Yes	Reuse and share existing tables and stored procedures.	
Business Plan	Yes	Administers grants to students and provides customer service.	
Strategic Plan	Yes	Provide information to all stakeholders to process grants for students pursuing a post high school education.	

Impact to Other Entities

Nature of Impact to Other Entities

Entity:
 Describe the nature of the impact:
 Provide the Commission, California's educational segments, public and private stakeholders with all the information timely for them to provide needed financial services to California students pursuing a post high school education.

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services to California students pursuing a post-high school education.

Entity:
Describe the nature of the impact:
Students will be able to use the data for processing applications for all specialized grant types. Ability to provide them with data timely will allow CSAC to award and pay applicants timely.

Entity:
Describe the nature of the impact:
Educational Institutions will be able to use this data as a resource when determining eligibility. The institutions must verify enrollment and process applicant for payments. The institution will then receive the warrant and issue the warrant to the applicants.

Entity:
Describe the nature of the impact:

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Solution Alternatives

Alternative 1:

Co-Development of an web service interface between the Educational Institutions and CSAC to share annual data for processing various grant programs. The solution will utilize existing tables and stored procedures. It will be a real time submission.

Technical Considerations for Alternative 1:

This solution will comply with the CSAC strategic direction of providing real time information and improving data exchange. The solution will reuse existing web services processes and existing table structure. These changes will be essential to allow the real time interfaces needed for our customers desiring current data.

ROM Cost: _____ to _____

Note: high end of range must not exceed 200% of low end of range

Alternative 2:

Continue with existing download processing of Educational Institutions data files via WebGrants.

Technical Considerations for Alternative 2:

None

ROM Cost: _____ to _____

Note: high end of range must not exceed 200% of low end of range

Alternative 3:

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Technical Considerations for Alternative 3:	
ROM Cost: _____ to _____	Note: high end of range must not exceed 200% of low end of range

Recommendation

Comparison:

Alternative 1	ROM Cost	Risk
Provide Web Services for data Exchange	\$0 - \$0	
Alternative 2	ROM Cost	Risk
Status Quo	\$0 - \$0	<i>schedule and budget risks when forced to change</i>
Alternative 3	ROM Cost	Risk
	\$0 - \$0	

Conclusions:

1	Complete Alternative 1 to meet all the requirements while staying in budget, scope and costs.
2	
3	
4	

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Recommendation:

Alternative 1 will provide real time data sharing of required data for processing various grant applications. The California Education Code requirements for applying for the various grants to have up to date information about eligible schools approved for various grant programs and the various services that they are approved for to allow for grants to be eligible. CSAC will collaborate with the CDE for the development, implementation and maintenance of the web services. CSAC will continue be responsible for managing the student accounts in CalGrants and the various grant programs by utilizing this data. The only change will be the source of how CSAC receives the information and how quickly.

Project Approach (if known)

System Complexity:			System Business Hours: (e.g., 24x7, 9am-5pm) :		
Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Mainframe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Client Server	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Web Based	Num. of New Databases:	existing
Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> New to Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-House Experience	Interfaces:	External
Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Roll-out		Num. of Sites:	1
M & O Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In House	
Procurement Approach: Procure a web certificate through DTS				Number of Procurements: 1	
Open Procurement?	Yes	Delegated Procurement?			
Scope of Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> M & O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Web Certificates	
Anticipated Length of Contract:	1	Years /	extensions for	years	