

Free City

A San Francisco value



Who are our “Cash Grant” students?

- Approximately 30% of Free City participants (with confirmed very low income) receive a Free City Cash Grant
- They receive the state's California College Promise Grant (CCPG), while Free City provides \$46 per unit.
- These students are disproportionately from systemically disadvantaged groups, including first-generation college students, foster youth, vets, and CalWORKS recipients

100%

of Free City Cash Grant recipients are economically underserved.

The cash grant is the sole mechanism that specifically supports the program’s equity goals.

Why Grants?

- Free tuition is a door-opener, but not the full picture: tuition is not the biggest cost of an education, especially in our expensive City.
- As of 2024-25, CCSF had the highest Cost of Attendance (CoA) in the state
- SF students receive the same amount of federal and state financial aid as elsewhere.
- Free City Cash Grant recipients face an average annual “unmet need” of more than \$15,000 per year. The grant helps bridge this gap.

I'm super thankful to [have the Free City cash grant] because as a single parent, it's really hard to take care of my child and myself and transportation.

— Free City Cash Grant Recipient + Transfer Candidate

[Free City is] the only reason why I could take that leap to go back to school.... And without Free City, I wouldn't complete my [Computer Networking and Information Technology program and transfer] because ... I've exhausted my savings. I'm barely able to make it this term.... If I didn't have Free City, I probably would've just quit my certificate, started working, and then maybe taken a class here and there.

—Free City Cash Grant Recipient + Student Worker

Bottom Line: Eliminating the Free City Cash Grant Will Make College Less Attainable for San Francisco's Most Vulnerable Residents