Program History

The Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) program was established in the California Community Colleges as "a unique educational program geared toward the welfare recipient who desires job-relevant education to break the dependency cycle" (AB 3103, Hughes (Chapter 1029, Statutes of 1982).

EOPS students, who are welfare-dependent single heads of household, are eligible for CARE, which offers educational support services to students as they acquire the education, training and marketable skills needed to transition from welfare-dependency to employment and eventual self-sufficiency. Presently, 113 programs in all 72 districts of the California Community Colleges system are funded to offer CARE services annually through EOPS, its parent program. CARE was the first state-funded and is the only statewide program of its kind in the nation.

Description

In addition to the core supportive services provided by the EOPS program, CARE students may be awarded supplemental grants, services and allowances to pay for educationally-related expenses (such as child care, transportation, textbooks and supplies) not offered by other resources to strengthen their retention, persistence, graduation and transfer rates.

Services Provided

Services are individualized for each student and may include assistance with child care expenses for in-class and study hours; textbooks and class materials; school supplies; transportation costs (bus passes, gas vouchers, campus parking permits, mileage reimbursement); supplemental counseling and advisement assistance from academic counselors, advisors and peer advisors; group support and peer networking; laptop computer loan services; on-campus meal vouchers; one-on-one tutoring programs; campus and course-related fees; classes designed for low income, single parent students; personal development activities, workshops, training and/or curriculum (addressing self-esteem, parenting, study skills, time management, etc.); vocational board examination and certification fees; information and referrals to campus- and community-based services or public agencies.

Students Served

In 2012-13, the CARE program served 6,482 students statewide.

Appropriation for 2013-14

In 2013-14, the State Budget appropriated $9,332 million for the CARE program; the same amount it received in 2012-13.
Student Characteristics in 2012-13

Ethnicity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>25.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>45.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>18.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender: 95.56% Female 3.88% Male

Age:

- 33.17% age 24 or younger
- 42.97% ages 25-34
- 23.86% age 35 and older

Eligibility Criteria

- California residents who meet all EOPS eligibility requirements as per Title 5 regulations
  - Low income and eligible for Board of Governors Fee Waiver A or B
  - Educationally disadvantaged or academically underprepared per EOPS criteria
- Enrolled as full-time students in a vocational certificate, associate degree or transfer program
- At least 18 years of age
- Single heads of household (i.e., one-parent CalWORKs assistance unit as verified by county)
- Have one child under 14 years of age at the time of acceptance into CARE
- Current recipients of TANF/CalWORKs cash aid for themselves or their child(ren)
- Important safety net offered to students who head a one-parent welfare family, meet EOPS/CARE eligibility criteria, but are otherwise ineligible for campus CalWORKs and county TANF/CalWORKs cash aid and ancillary services, because they:
  - Have exceeded the 60 month lifetime time limit for TANF/CalWORKs
  - Are sanctioned by TANF/CalWORKs or
  - Are otherwise ineligible to receive TANF/CalWORKs cash aid for themselves, but whose child(ren) continue(s) to receive cash aid.

Career Technical Education (CTE): 8,666 (77.1%) CARE students were enrolled in career technical education classes in 2008-09.