Jessica Moldoff

Division Chief of Data, Analysis and Research

As Division Chief of Data, Analysis and Research, Jessica Moldoff oversees and directs the research and data governance functions of the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and manages the Data, Analysis and Research Team. She is responsible for facilitating research on program effectiveness and financial aid administration, as well as overseeing the CSAC's reports, program projections, and ad hoc data requests.

After graduating from college, Jessica worked at Bluegrass Community & Technical College in Lexington, Kentucky, for over three years, including in its financial aid office as the student loan coordinator. She received a Masters and PhD in Higher Education from the Education Policy Studies and Evaluation department at the University of Kentucky, and worked on the evaluation of two Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants as a research assistant. Her dissertation on Competency-Based Education included how its departure from the traditional credit hour model of higher education complicates the delivery of financial aid.

Jessica started working as an analyst at the CSAC in January 2017 and was a founding member of the research team in September 2017 where she continued to advance until taking over as its Division Chief in January 2023.

Timeline of C2C Partnership

- 2020-2021: CSAC involved in C2C planning process

- 2022-23 Budget: Research Data Specialist position approved

- Early 2023: Regular meetings with C2C to establish data definitions

- Sept 2023: Mary Ann presentation to Commissioners

- October 2023: Data Transfer

CSAC-CCGI Data Exchange

- Since 2017, data exchange between CSAC and CCGI for CaliforniaColleges.edu

- CSAC provides financial aid app status and GPA submission status

- Change from biweekly manual to on-demand automated process in 2022

What Data Does CSAC Provide to C2C?

- Eligible, Awarded, and Paid Students since 2009-10
- Institution
- Payment Amount
- Dependency Status
- EFC (in future, SAI)
- Parent Income and Education Level
- Demographics

Which Financial Aid Programs? (1 of 2)

- Cal Grant (A,B,C)
  - Students with Dependent Children & Foster Youth Access
- Middle Class Scholarship
- Chafee Foster Youth Program
- Golden State Teacher Grant
- Leaning-Aligned Employment Program
- California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant

- California Military Department GI Bill Award
- Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents
- John R. Justice Grants
- Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEARUP)
- Golden State Education and Training Grant
- Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE)
- State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education of Nursing Faculty (SNAPLE NF)

Enhancing Data Team Capacity

- Research Data Specialist focused on creating datasets for exchange

- Harvard Strategic Data Partnership (SDP) Research Fellow
  - Two-year fellow starting tentatively in summer 2024

Challenges and Opportunities

- Challenges in data availability for small programs

- Changes to data available from FAFSA
  - Income (2024-25 +) and Gender (2023-24 +)

- Leveraging C2C and NSC data to evaluate grant recipient outcomes