January 2017 Survey of Burton Book Fund Recipients

Survey of Burton Book Fund Recipients
In January 2017, John Burton Advocates for Youth conducted a survey of the 1,050 students who participated in the Burton Book Fund in the 2016-17 academic year. The Burton Book Fund provides up to $250 per current or former foster youth who is enrolled in college or a career and technical certification program to purchase textbooks. The survey was sent via email directly to the Burton Book Fund recipients. A total of 337 students responded to the survey over the one-month survey period.

The purpose of the survey was to learn:
- how many Burton Book Fund participants receive the Pell Grant;
- the likely impact of not receiving the Pell Grant among those who do receive it;
- the actual impact of not receiving the Pell Grant among those who don’t receive it;
- why students do not receive the Pell Grant and
- the kind of campus attended by Burton Book Fund recipients.

Survey Findings

1: Do you currently receive a Pell Grant as part of your financial aid package?

- Yes: 79%
- No: 21%
2: Of those who receive the Pell Grant, how would not receiving the Pell Grant affect your school enrollment?

- I would reduce my course load to work more: 2.6%
- I would likely dis-enroll from school: 19.2%
- I would maintain my course load but work more: 42.1%
- It would have no effect: 36.1%

3: Of those who do not receive the Pell Grant, don’t you receive the Pell Grant?

- I don’t know: 2.9%
- I did not make satisfactory academic progress: 28.6%
- I did not complete the FAFSA: 10.0%
- My income was too high to qualify: 7.1%
- I am not a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or eligible non-citizen: 4.3%
- I do not have a high school diploma or GED: 4.3%
- I had an overpayment and now owe the school money: 1.4%
- I was not able to provide proof of my foster care status: 1.4%
- I was an eligible non-citizen, but my status was revoked: 0.0%
4: Of those who do not receive the Pell Grant, how has not receiving the Pell Grant affected your school enrollment?

- I maintained my course load but worked more: 47.1%
- I had to reduce my course load to work more: 33.3%
- It had no effect: 17.5%
- I had to dis-enroll from school: 8.3%

5: Do you participate in a campus support program, such as Guardian Scholars, Renaissance Scholars, CAFYES or other on-campus program designed to help foster youth?

- Yes: 78%
- No: 22%
6. If you participate in a campus support program, how helpful has this program been in ensuring you receive financial aid, including the Pell Grant?

![Pie chart showing responses to the question about the helpfulness of campus support programs.]

7. What type of college campus are you enrolled in?

![Pie chart showing the distribution of college types.]

Organizational Background
John Burton Advocates for Youth was founded in 2005 by John Burton, formerly a member of Congress, the California State Assembly and President of the California State Senate. John Burton Advocates for Youth is a statewide non-profit organization based in San Francisco, CA working to improve the quality of life for California’s foster, former foster, and homeless youth. The annual budget of the organization is $1.3 million, with 7 staff members and 12 active board members. John Burton Advocates for Youth pursues its mission through a combination of advocacy, training, research and direct services to current and former foster youth and homeless youth.