



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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California Student Aid Commission and EDFUND Launch Financial Aid Awareness Initiative

RANCHO CORDOVA— The California Student Aid Commission and EDFUND, its student loan services auxiliary, today announced the launch of a three-year partnership initiative intended to increase the number of low-income and under-represented students who apply for and receive financial aid for college. Nearly \$5 million in grant funds was awarded this week by EDFUND on behalf of the Commission. These grants can be renewed for up to three years.

“Financial aid for college is becoming increasingly important for California’s students,” said Diana Fuentes-Michel, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission. “The Commission & EDFUND are pleased to be working with our partners in education on this committed effort to educate students about financial aid, how to get it, and when and how to apply.”

The Commission issued two Requests for Proposals (RFP) in mid-December, seeking to award grants for the purpose of developing partnerships with academic preparation programs, higher education campus outreach offices, and community-based organizations. Grant awards to successful RFP respondents were announced this week.

“The grants have been awarded to public and private organizations including nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and associations,” said Michel.

The goals of the new partnerships are to inform every California high school senior of the Cal Grant Entitlement Program in order to increase the number of Cal Grant recipients; to increase the number of California students who are prepared to meet both the academic and financial requirements necessary to enroll in and succeed in college; and, to prepare California high school seniors to fulfill the steps necessary to be considered for state, federal, and institutional financial aid programs, and the Cal Grant program in particular.

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“This is a vital outreach initiative that EDFUND will be administering on behalf of the Commission,” added EDFUND President Becky Stilling. “Working together, we can make a difference for the thousands of California students who have the ability to benefit from a higher education, but need more information about financial aid.”

In 2000, the Cal Grant Program underwent an historic expansion into an Entitlement program that guaranteed a Cal Grant award to every California graduating high school senior with financial need and academic eligibility. The program change had strong bipartisan legislative support.

For further information on college financial aid, visit www.edfund.org or www.finaid.org; for information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov; and, for information on financial aid programs in California and the Cal Grant Program, visit the California Student Aid Commission’s Web site at www.csac.ca.gov .

A list of the grantees is attached.

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission’s primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which will distribute about \$662 million to California’s college students during the 2003-2004 school year, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its nonprofit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND. The Commission is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California.

EDFUND, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is the nation’s second largest provider of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. EDFUND offers students a wide range of financial aid and debt management information while supporting schools with advanced loan processing solutions and default prevention techniques. Operating as an auxiliary corporation of the California Student Aid Commission, EDFUND processes more than \$5.5 billion in student loans annually (including consolidation loans) and manages a portfolio of outstanding loans valued at \$21 billion. EDFUND is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California with regional offices located throughout the nation.

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PROPOSALS CHOSEN BY THE REVIEW PANEL
January 30, 2004

Campus and Agency Partnership/Outreach RFP-03-009

Proposal Number	Name of Organization	Requested Budget Amount
Outreach #2004-03	UC San Francisco	\$161,834
Outreach #2004-04	Shasta Union High School District	\$225,000
Outreach #2004-10	UC Merced	\$361,584
Outreach #2004-13	Sonoma State University Pre-College Program	\$100,117
Outreach #2004-17	UC Berkeley Center for Educational Outreach	\$364,105
Outreach #2004-19	UC Riverside Early Academic Outreach Program	\$353,176
Outreach #2004-24	Santa Ana Unified School District & PIQE (Parent Institute for Quality Education)	\$75,000
Outreach #2004-25	Stockton Unified School District & PIQE	\$60,000
Outreach #2004-26	Sweetwater Union High School District & PIQE	\$45,000
Outreach #2004-27	Modesto City Schools & PIQE	\$45,000
Outreach #2004-29	UCLA – UC Financial Aid Awareness Collaborative	\$557,647
Outreach #2004-43	CSU Northridge	\$206,013
Outreach #2004-44	CSU Fresno	\$147,431
Outreach #2004-47	UC American Indian Counselor and Recruiters Association	\$138,893
Outreach #2004-50	East Side Union High School District & PIQE	\$15,000
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR CAMPUS & AGENCY PARTNERSHIP		\$2,855,800

In-Class Instruction RFP-03-010

Proposal Number	Name of Organization	Requested Budget Amount
In-Class 2004-01	MESA at CSU Chico	\$74,287
In-Class 2004-03	AVID Center	\$1,999,984
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION		\$2,074,271

GRAND TOTALS

Campus & Agency Partnership Amount	\$2,855,800
In-Class Instruction Amount	\$2,074,271
GRAND TOTAL OF AWARDED AMOUNTS	\$4,930,071

Note: Awards are subject to EDFUND contract requirements and are not final until contract is signed.