

FAST BLAST



OUR MISSION: "Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."

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State Budget Update

On December 1, 2008, the first day of the 2009-10 Legislative Session, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal state of emergency in California which allows him to call a Proposition 58 legislative session to deal with the revenue and budget shortfall. Under Proposition 58 the legislature has 45 days to pass and send a bill or bills to the Governor's desk addressing the state's budget crisis. If the 45 days pass and the legislature has not passed bills to address the problem, they cannot adjourn or act on other bills until the state's fiscal emergency is addressed.

Commission staff will be monitoring the special session and will continue to advocate for the Cal Grant program and other Commission specialized financial aid programs and all areas of student access to higher education.

For more information on the fiscal emergency or to view the Governor's various proclamations, please refer to his press release at www.gov.ca.gov/press-release.

Assumption Program of Loans for Education 2008-09 Application Update

The priority deadline for the 2008-09 Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) applications was November 1, 2008. We will continue to accept eligible applications until all allocations are disbursed or June 30, 2009—whichever comes first.

If you have questions about the APLE application process, please call 888.224.7268, option 3.

2009-10 College Cost Estimate Information Request

The Commission uses the College Cost Estimate Information Request provided by institutions to accurately determine the financial need and award amounts for Cal grant participants. The new deadline for submitting the 2009-10 College Cost Estimate information is February 17, 2009. You can submit your college cost information by using the WebGrants Cost Estimate screen.

Beginning in 2009-10, institutions must provide cost information for three budgets; 1) on-campus; 2) off-campus; and 3) with-parents. In prior years, the Commission only requested on-campus budget information and used a standard off-campus and with-parents budget for all schools regardless of the actual cost used by the schools. The use of actual costs for off-campus and with-parents budget information will allow more accurate selection of Cal Grant participants.

Entitlement Cal Grant recipients will begin receiving award announcements in March—one month later than in prior years. The Commission will use later versions of the student's ISIR data. This will result in more accurate awards. Failure to update your cost of attendance by the February 17 deadline may impact a student's ability to be selected for a Cal Grant award.

Additional information can be located at [College Cost Estimate Request](#).

Student Expense Budgets and Income and Asset Ceilings

To assist schools in setting budgets for the upcoming financial aid year, a sample Statewide Student Expense Budget has been posted on the Commission's Website at [College Cost Estimate Form 2009-10](#). The sample includes standardized allowances for food, housing, books, supplies,

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transportation, and personal/miscellaneous expenses for a nine-month academic year. This information will be used in the Cal Grant award process.

California Cash for College Awarded New Scholarship Funding for National, Multi-Year Scholarship Study

College Access Foundation of California has awarded a \$2.9 million grant to support nearly 2,800 college scholarships for low-income California students in the next two years. The scholarships will be awarded through student financial aid workshops offered by California Cash for College (CCFC), which reached more than 22,000 low-income students statewide in the past year.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has invested an additional \$2 million to support a rigorous evaluation of the scholarship program by MDRC, Inc., a leading national non-profit evaluation research firm. The MDRC study, part of a four-state, \$11.5 million evaluation initiative, will compare outcomes for scholarship recipients vs. non-recipients. It will also compare several subgroups who receive scholarships of different amounts and durations.

The CCFC, California Student Aid Commission, College Access Foundation, MDRC and the Gates Foundation partnership represents an innovative investment of federal, state and private resources that will not only increase financial aid for low-income California college students but also produce research findings that will maximize the value and effectiveness of financial aid.

2009 Cash for College Workshop Registration Continues

The 2009 California Cash for College financial aid workshop series is open for registration. High schools, community college and university campuses, outreach and community groups can register to host workshops that begin in January and continue through to the March 2 Cal Grant deadline. To register, click on "For Organizers" at the Workshops Page of www.calgrants.org.

College Cash Boxes

The Commission has been receiving many requests for the College Cash Boxes we provided to schools in prior years. Due to fiscal restraints, we are unable to produce the College Cash Boxes this year. We are also unable to print Grade Point Average (GPA) forms for schools. To access GPA forms, click on the downloadable forms on the Commission's Web site located at [Cal Grant GPA Verification Form](#).

The Commission's offices will be open during the holiday season with the exception of Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25th) and New Year's Day (Thursday, January 1st).

Happy Holidays!



The Commission remains dedicated to keeping you apprised of any new information that may affect our programs. Please forward your ideas and comments to Fastblast@csac.ca.gov

