

FAST BLAST

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

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Message from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel

On Friday, July 24, 2009, the Legislature passed amendments to the 2009-10 Budget Act (signed by the Governor in February 2009) along with implementing legislation. On Tuesday, July 28, 2009 the Governor signed the revised budget package.

The Cal Grant and Specialized Programs remain intact and fully funded. As a result, all students who were notified that offers were "tentative" can now be assured that their grants will be awarded for the 2009-10 academic year.

Although the funding for the Cal Grant and Specialized Programs remains whole, the Governor vetoed \$6.3 million in support for the administration of the Cal Grant and Specialized Programs. This veto includes a provision that would set aside \$4.3 million, which would be restored contingent upon enactment of legislation that authorizes the decentralization of the Cal Grant Program and other financial aid programs.

The revised budget includes the following:

- Continues to fund the maximum Cal Grant tuition and fee award for all new and renewal recipients at the system wide levels:
 - \$4,026 for students attending the California State University.
 - \$7,788 for students attending the University of California (UC). The UC is also considering further increases for implementation in the spring term, but there has been no formal action as of this date.
- Maintains the maximum Cal Grant tuition and fee award for all new recipients attending private and independent institutions at \$9,708.

- Maintains all eligible High School Entitlement awards.
- Maintains all eligible California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards.
- Maintains the 22,500 new Competitive Cal Grant awards.
- Maintains the 7,761 new Cal Grant C awards and award amounts.
- Establishes a new financial aid program for National Guard members.

The final budget also:

- Sets the number of Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) allocations at 7,200.
- Authorizes 100 agreements each for the two State Nursing APLE programs: the State Nursing Assumption Programs of Loans for Education for Nursing Faculty and Nurses in State Facilities for 2008-09.
- Funds the California Student Opportunity and Access program (Cal-SOAP) at \$7.35 million through the Federal College Access Challenge Grant. One million dollars of the funding is identified for Career Technical Education (CTE) awareness, a priority of the Governor as represented in his CTE Initiative launched in 2005.
- Funds the Cash for College (CFC) program for \$330,000 from the federal College Access Challenge Grant.
- Extends the deadline for the sale of EDFUND to January 10, 2011, and specifies \$500,000 (a 50 percent reduction from what was anticipated) for the limited-term funding of the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) Federal Policy and Programs Division

(FPPD) for the on-going oversight of the federal loan program.

Registered Warrants:

As discussed in Special Alert GSA 2009-18, the State Controller's Office (SCO) began issuing registered warrants (IOUs) on July 2, 2009. At this time, and until further notice, all electronic transfers of funds remain cancelled and IOUs will continue to be issued for Cal Grant funds. In the event this circumstance reverts to the previous processing methods, we will inform you immediately via a Special Alert.

The Commission will continue to keep you informed on any budget actions or procedural changes that may affect the Commission's programs and the students we all serve.

We appreciate your assistance supporting and communicating with students during this unprecedented budget impasse.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission at (888) 294-0153 or via e-mail at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

2008-09 Cal Grant Payments Update

Upon receiving confirmation from the Department of Finance that the California Legislature had authorized a partial augmentation for additional 2008-09 Cal Grant funding, the Commission resumed weekly payment processing, which included summer term payments. The Commission will continue the weekly payment processing and Cal Grant payments will be released if there are sufficient Cal Grant funds.

Until further notice, all electronic transfer of funds have been cancelled and registered warrants (paper checks) will be issued for Cal Grant funds. These registered warrants, also known as IOUs, are being issued to most General Fund state agencies by the California State Controller's Office. For more information on registered warrants, visit the California State Controller's Office website at <http://www.sco.ca.gov/>.

Chafee Grant 2009-10 Update

The California Chafee Grant Program (Chafee) continues to process new applications and renewal information for the 2009-10 academic year. To date, the Commission has processed more than 6,000 applicants of which 1,114 are

ready to be processed for an award. The Commission encourages institutions to process a 2009-10 Financial Needs Analysis Report (NAR) for each eligible applicant enrolled or planning to enroll in their institution. Applicants without a completed NAR cannot be considered for an award.

Cal Grant Renewal Process for 2009-10

The Commission has renewed more than 193,000 Cal Grant award offers to potential participants. Renewal students were sent emails confirming their Cal Grant eligibility and encouraging them to provide any updates to their demographic or school status on WebGrants for Students (WGS). This renewal process for 2009-10 will continue until December 2009.

Students who do not have a 2008-09 payment or leave of absence posted by the end of the year will be withdrawn from the Cal Grant program and will no longer be eligible to receive funds. To establish renewal eligibility, institutions must post 2008-09 payments or request a leave of absence.

The Commission produces reports on the WebGrants Data Transfer screen which identifies students whose renewal Cal Grant eligibility is unclear. Schools are encouraged to use these reports as soon as possible to assist students in retaining their awards. Additional information about the reports can be located at [Operations Memo GOM 2009-20](#).

APPLE Statutory Changes

The Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APPLE) program had undergone statutory changes expanding program eligibility, broadening the scope for leaves of absence, and changing the requirements for participants to receive additional loan assumption funds. Additional information can be found in [Operations Memo GOM 2009-21](#).

APPLE loan assumption payments have been processed for participating teachers who submitted required verification forms and who taught during the 2007-08 school year. Commission staff is currently processing APPLE loan assumption payments for eligible teachers who taught during the 2008-09 school year.

If you have questions regarding APPLE and changes to the program or the APPLE application process, contact Specialized Programs Operations Branch at 888.224.7268, option 3.

2008-09 SNAPLE NSF and NF

The 2008-09 State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nurses in State Facilities (SNAPLE NSF) and Nursing Faculty (SNAPLE NF) application process closed on June 30, 2009. The Commission will notify awardees within the next couple of weeks.

Summer Term Enhancement

Non-mandatory summer schools now have the ability to add summer terms for individual students on the WebGrants payment roster. The new enhancement gives more control to schools without the Commission's intervention. Additional information about *New Summer Term on WebGrants Roster* can be found in [Operations Memo GOM 2009-17](#).

Cal Grant C Online

The on-line Cal Grant supplement was released on May 29th. Potential Cal Grant C applicants were notified and directed to establish a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account to complete their Cal Grant C supplement. Additional information about *Cal Grant C Online* can be found in [Operations Memo GOM 2009-16](#).

2009-10 Cal Grant Entitlement High School Graduation Confirmation Process (G-8)

Students, high schools and colleges can now confirm a student's high school graduation via WGS, WebGrants or the paper G-8 form.

Newly awarded Cal Grant entitlement participants are required to have their high school graduation confirmed prior to receiving payment. The Commission's WebGrants system acts as the central repository of high school graduation confirmations so that high schools, colleges, students and Commission staff can work collaboratively to gather high school graduation confirmations from various sources.

This new web service allows school computer systems to communicate directly with the Commission's Grant Delivery System (GDS). Schools can access Commission data on automated schedules, create query access for students, and populate school databases with GPA information.

Demo Application Client

A sample application can be downloaded by the designated WebGrants System Administrators (SA) at each school or schools may develop their own web service.

Additional information about the *Cal Grant Entitlement High School Graduation Confirmation Process* can be found in [Operations Memo 2009-19](#).

Arthur Marmaduke Winner

Twila Rutherford of Fort Bragg High School was awarded the prestigious 2008-09 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award.

Technical Development Workgroup

Web Services is the first of many applications the Commission plans to offer and is the initial step to integrate the GDS with the schools' Financial Aid Management Systems (FAMS).

In an effort to further enhance our Web Services, the Commission will continue to work with our partners. Financial aid staff from the various segments are invited to meet and provide feedback in the areas of improvement, enhancement and technological integration between the schools and the Commission. Meetings will be held through teleconference on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1:30-2:30 PM.. Interested school staff who wish to participate in these discussions should contact Debi Jackson, Manager, CSAC Information Technology Branch at (916) 464-8180 or djackson@csac.ca.gov.

Please direct questions regarding Web Services or any problems incurred during the installation of the sample client to Debi Jackson or to Tim Lord, Programmer, at (916) 464-8944 or at tlord@csac.ca.gov.

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