

FAST BLAST



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

DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission

April 14, 2010

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission), in a press release issued on March 26, praised the landmark passage of the "Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010", which enacts sweeping reforms in federal student loan programs.

The legislation allocates \$36 billion over 10 years, increasing the maximum annual Pell Grant to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$5,975 by 2017. Beginning in 2013, the grant will be linked to match the rising cost-of-living by indexing it to the Consumer Price Index.

In addition to the Pell Grant increase, the legislation includes important funding for the College Access Challenge Grant program. This allocation allows the Commission to continue vital counseling to students, statewide dissemination of financial aid information and workshop programs through the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) and California Cash for College.

The Commission has offered more than 79,000 2010-11 High School Entitlement Cal Grant Awards to date.

Community College September 2nd 2010-11 Cal Grant Application Deadline

The September 2 application deadline is geared for students attending community college. To qualify, students must complete the following steps by the September 2 application deadline:

1. *File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);*
2. *Enroll in a California Community College for the Fall 2010 term; and*
3. *Submit a certified Cal Grant GPA Verification Form.*

The student's electronic or paper GPA Verification Form must be certified by the community college where the student is enrolled for the Fall 2010 term.

WebGrants is the fastest and most secure way for schools to submit student GPAs. Go to www.csac.ca.gov to download the [September 2 Cal Grant GPA Verification Form](#) and the [Cal Grant GPA Calculation Instructions](#).

If you have any questions regarding the September 2 application process, please contact School Support Services at (888) 294-0153 or schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

Students can view their electronic California Aid Report (CAR) in WebGrants for Students (WGS). Paper CARs are no longer sent to students who provided an e-mail address on their Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please encourage your students to check their e-mail messages and to open a WGS account at www.webgrants4students.com where they can manage their account to make important updates that may affect their award.

2010-11 Cal Grant GPA Appeal Process

State law allows students who did not file an on-line certified GPA Verification Form due to circumstances beyond their control to submit an appeal to the Commission for consideration. All appeals must be submitted using the [Late Cal Grant GPA Verification Form](#).

2010-11 New and Renewal Chafee Grants Processed

The Commission processed 1,100 new 2010-11 and 1,477 renewal California Chafee Grant awards for foster and former foster youth.

In light of recent budget cuts, continued budget constraints and the current 12 percent reduction in the Chafee Grant program funding, the Commission continues to encourage students to apply for Chafee Grants and to actively seek alternative financial aid to assist students with their educational financial needs. Students can submit a 2009-10 and 2010-11 [Chafee online application](#) at www.csac.ca.gov.

Effective April 1, 2010, schools can view 2010-11 Need Analysis Reports (NAR) and students' Chafee Grant award status on www.webgrants4students.com. Schools may submit the 2009-2010 or 2010-11 NARs [online](#) at www.csac.ca.gov or by paper.

Annual Report to the Legislature on EdFund

The Commission completed the 2008-09 Annual Report to the Legislature on EdFund for Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009. The report includes an update of the 2008-09 Federal Fiscal year activities of EdFund and the challenges faced by EdFund and the Commission as a result of the state budget crisis and the federal government transitioning the financing and delivery of federally subsidized student loans. The [report](#) can be located at www.csac.ca.gov.

High school counselors and financial aid directors are encouraged to sign up for the Commission's ListServ to receive up-to-date Operations Memos, Special Alerts and Policy Memos. Go to CSAC home page and select [Links - CSAC List Services - Click here to subscribe for professional information](#) -Type the Username: students - Password: ISEC2001

California National Guard Education Assistance Application Deadline Extended

The Application deadline for the California National Guard Education Assistance program (CNG EAAP) has been extended to April 14, 2010.

CNG EAAP is a state-funded program designed to provide an educational incentive to improve skills, competencies, and abilities for up to 1,000 service members who remain active in the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia. Participants can receive award amounts equal to a Cal Grant A for attending the University of California or the California State University, a Cal Grant B award for attending a community college, a Cal Grant A amount for a recipient attending a non-public institution, or a Cal Grant A award plus \$500 for books and supplies for graduate studies.

WebGrants Security and Access Forms Deadlines

June 30, 2010 is the deadline for schools to submit the annual WebGrants Information Security and Confidentiality Agreement (Confidentiality Agreement) and WebGrants System Administrator's Access Request Form (Access Request Form) to the Commission to ensure continued access to WebGrants. Pursuant to the Cal Grant Program Institutional Participation Agreement, user access is granted for a period of time not to exceed one (1) year, and shall be renewed upon completion of annual training available from the Commission.

Training is available online at www.csac.ca.gov. Click on [Institutional Participation Agreement – IPA, Institutional Participation Agreement, and IPA Information Security Training](#).

WebGrants user access may be affected if the Confidentiality Agreement and the Access Request Form are not received by the deadline. The System Administrator (SA) may not be able to reset the user's password if the SA's WebGrants access has expired.

Both of the WebGrants security documents are available in WebGrants on the "Help" page.

California Student Aid Commission Addresses

Mailing address:

California Student Aid Commission
*Attn: (Insert Name of Branch)
P.O. Box 419026
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026

UPS or overnight delivery only:

California Student Aid Commission
*Attn: (Insert Name of Branch)
10834 International Drive, Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

***Please direct mail to one of the following branches:**

- *Executive Office*
- *Administration & External Affairs*
- *Program Administration & Services*
- *Information Technology Services*
- *Federal Policy & Programs*
- *Legal & Audit Services*

