

# FAST BLAST

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

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



August 12, 2010

## Message from Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel

On July 20, 2010, the Federal Department of Education informed the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) of its decision to terminate its contract of the guaranty agency for the Federal Family Education (FFEL) Program. The Commission's non-profit auxiliary organization, EdFund, provided the FFEL Program services under its operating agreement with the Commission.

In a letter dated August 4, 2010, I provide an account of events which lead to the federal government's decision. To view the letter, go to [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).

The future of the Commission's participation in the FFEL program and impact on the students we serve is unknown. We will continue to work with the Legislature, Governor, and the USED to ensure any actions made will not jeopardize the administration of the Cal Grant programs.

We will keep you apprised of information as we receive it.

## Cal Grant disbursements on hold

### 2009-10 Payments

2009-10 Cal Grant disbursements, including summer term payments, continue to be on hold due to the state's funding shortfall. No funds will be disseminated until the Department of Finance approves the advances. Additional information on the 2009-10 Cal Grant payment process can be found in [Grant Special Alert GSA 2010-23 dated July 2, 2010](#).

### 2010-11 Advance payments

The 2010-11 advance payments will not be made until the 2010-11 budget is passed and signed by the Governor.

We will continue to keep you informed through the Commission's Special Alerts and Operations Memos as updates are received.

## Applications for 2009-10 SNAPLE NSF and SNAPLE NF still being accepted

The Commission is still accepting applications for the [State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nursing Faculty \(SNAPLE NF\)](#) and the [State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nurses in a State Facility \(SNAPLE NSF\)](#). To date, 42 SNAPLE NF and 6 SNAPLE NSF applicants were selected to receive up to \$25,000 for their outstanding student loans. Award notifications were mailed to applicants on July 9. Late applications will be processed on a daily basis. Please encourage your students to submit complete applications to be considered for an award.

## Access to WebGrants

WebGrants system administrators who neglected to submit or accurately complete the [Information Security and Confidentiality Agreement](#) and the [WebGrants System Administrator's Access Request form](#) by June 30, 2010 lost access to the Cal Grant WebGrants system on August 1, 2010. Annual renewal on WebGrants is required. If you have questions or concerns about WebGrants access, contact the

Program Administration & Services Division at 916.464.6423.

documentation, and various grant and selective service information and clarification.

### **2010-11 Chafee Grant application process**

The Commission is processing new Chafee Grant Program (Chafee) applications and renewal Chafee information for the 2010-11 academic year. To date, the Commission has processed more than 7726 applications. To be considered for an award, institutions must process a 2010-11 Financial Needs Analysis Report for each eligible applicant enrolled or who plans to enroll in their institution.

Get answers to your questions about the federal financial aid process by contacting the.

[Federal Student Aid Customer Service Center](#)

### **2010-11 Cal Grant C awards**

More than 61,000 2010-11 Cal Grant A and B applicants who did not qualify for an award were sent a Cal Grant C application. Of that number, the Commission received approximately 16,100 applications. Award notifications were sent to the students selected to receive a 2010-11 Cal Grant C award.

### **2010-11 Top Two Percent awardees notified**

Students receiving the “Top Two Percent” Cal Grant awards were notified on August 2, 2010. Each year, based on a competitive scoring process, the top two percent of first year Entitlement Cal Grant B participants will receive tuition/fee payments in addition to a \$1,551 access award.

Student rosters now reflect the new award amounts. Additional information on “Top Two Percent” can be located in [GOM 2010-16](#) dated August 4, 2010.

### **New Federal Student Aid Handbook Now Available**

The [2010-11 Federal Student Aid Handbook: Volume 1 – Student Eligibility](#) is now available. This helpful handbook provides information on eligibility requirements for students and parent borrowers. A few of the changes to the handbook include adding, reorganizing and correcting text, program guidance, eligibility

### **California Student Aid Commission Addresses:**

#### **Our mailing address:**

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#### **For UPS or overnight delivery only:**

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

- *Executive Office*
- *Administration & External Affairs*
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