

Action /Information Item

California Student Aid Commission

Consideration of Preliminary Approval of Annual Program Plans for Cal-SOAP Consortia 2008-09 Contracts

There are currently 16 Cal-SOAP (California Student and Opportunity Access Program) projects throughout the State. Cal-SOAP was funded from the Student Loan Operating Fund from 2003-04 through 2006-07 at \$8.6 million. In 2007-08, the Governor shifted the program back to the General Fund and reduced the funding by \$2.2 million resulting in a \$6.4 million program.

The Governor's office has proposed that Cal-SOAP be funded by the Federal College Access Challenge Grant (federal grant) for the 2008-2009 award year. The application for the federal grant will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Education by the Governor's Office of the Secretary for Education by June 27, 2008. We expect awards to be announced in late August.

The Governor's proposal included a total of \$7.349 million in federal funds for Cal-SOAP with \$1 million specifically dedicated to support Career Technical Education (CTE) public awareness. The Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees rejected the \$1 million for CTE and instead approved \$500,000 for Cal-SOAP and \$500,000 for Cash for College. This action would fund Cal-SOAP at \$6.849 million for 2008-09.

The federal grant cannot be used to reimburse Cal-SOAP expenses between July 1, 2008 and the date of the award. In addition, the federal grant may only be used to support the Cal-SOAP consortia that were in operation on September 27, 2007. As a result, the Solano Cal-SOAP is not eligible to receive federal grant funds. The Solano Cal-SOAP was recently developed through a planning grant and became operational in April 2008. Funding options for these "gaps" are still being discussed by the legislature. The final funding amount for the Cal-SOAP will be determined by the Governor upon enactment of the state budget later this year.

The Commission is authorized by statute to determine the funding levels of each of the Cal SOAP projects. The staff recommendation is to approve initial project funding allocations at the 2007-2008 levels, as the federal funds will support the Cal-SOAP at its current level. Final project funding allocation recommendations will be presented to the Commission after the 2008-09 Budget is signed.

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to execute contracts with the Cal SOAP consortia for the 2008-2009 award year at project allocation levels consistent with the current year.

Responsible Person: Janet McDuffie
Chief, Federal Policy & Programs
Acting Chief, Management Services
Acting Chief, Policy, Research & External Relations

2008-2009 Cal-SOAP Initial Funding Recommendations

Staff recommends that budget allocations for the 2008-2009 fiscal year remain at the 2007-08 levels.

Consortium	2006-2007 Funding	2007-2008 Funding	Recommended 2008-2009 Funding
Central Coast	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
Central Valley	\$370,000.00	\$311,910.00	\$311,910.00
East Bay	\$673,683.00	\$500,546.00	\$500,546.00
Greater Long Beach	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
Los Angeles	\$850,000.00	\$631,550.00	\$631,550.00
Merced	\$363,130.00	\$306,119.00	\$306,119.00
Northcoast	\$500,526.00	\$377,897.00	\$377,897.00
North Valley	\$445,650.00	\$336,466.00	\$336,466.00
Sacramento	\$455,834.00	\$344,155.00	\$344,155.00
San Diego	\$1,250,000.00	\$928,750.00	\$928,750.00
San Francisco	\$335,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
San Jose	\$620,511.00	\$461,040.00	\$461,040.00
Santa Barbara	\$642,833.00	\$477,625.00	\$477,625.00
Southern San Joaquin	\$366,000.00	\$308,538.00	\$308,538.00
*Solano	\$0.00	\$131,250.00	\$0.00
South County (Gilroy)	\$465,000.00	\$351,075.00	\$351,075.00
SUCCESS	\$628,833.00		\$0.00
Award Totals	\$8,567,000.00	\$6,366,921.00	\$6,235,671.00
Funding Total	\$8,567,000.00	\$6,366,921.00	\$6,235,671.00

*In 2007-2008 the Solano Cal-SOAP was developed through a \$75,000 planning grant and funded to operate for the fourth quarter of the year with the remaining \$56,250, totalling \$131,250. A full year's funding would be \$300,000. However, because the project was not operational on Sept. 27, 2007, it is not eligible to receive funding through the Federal College Access Challenge Grant. Commission staff continues to seek alternative funding for the Solano Cal-SOAP.