

**Information Item**

***California Student Opportunity Access Program (Cal-SOAP)  
Advisory Subcommittee***

**Consideration of Methods to Implement Career Technical Education  
Provisions of the 2008-09 State Budget for Cal-SOAP**

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**Career Technical Education Program Phase I:**

The 2008-09 State Budget appropriated \$1 million from the Federal College Access Challenge Grant (Challenge Grant) for Career Technical Education (CTE) public awareness and the resulting career opportunities through Cal-SOAP. .

The budget act requires the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to consult with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO) in determining the projects and activities for these funds.

CSAC staff held preliminary meetings with CDE and CCCCCO to notify them of this new funding and to learn more about other CTE efforts already implemented under the Governor's Career Technical Education Initiative [Chapter 352, Statutes of 2005 (SB 70, Scott)]. Staff from the Office of the Secretary for Education (OSE) and the Department of Finance (DOF) also attended the meetings.

At the November 24, 2008 meeting with CDE, CCCCCO, DOF and OSE representatives, Executive Director Diana Fuentes-Michel asked that CSAC, CDE and CCCCCO designate staff to work on the Phase I materials, radio ad elements, and messaging. The vast majority of funding would be preserved for Phase II for spring classroom and other activities not related to the senior year financial aid application window.

At the CSAC meeting on December 10, 2008, the Commission approved the expenditure of \$125,000 for Phase I of the \$1 million appropriation from the Federal College Access Challenge Grant for CTE.

The primary elements associated with Phase I included modification and reprints of existing CCCCCO collateral and administrative costs (\$10,059.15) and a contribution (\$114,940.85) to the CCC ***Who Do You Want 2 Be?*** first quarter radio buy promoting the availability of financial aid year round for CCC's and also directing students to Cash for College workshops supporting the March 2, 2009 Cal Grant application deadline.

The radio buy was coordinated by CCCCCO and was customized to incorporate CTE and financial aid information. Added value provided by Clear Channel doubled the actual purchase amount of approximately \$370,000.00.

## **Career Technical Education Program Phase II:**

Additional meetings were held in March 2009 to discuss the implementation of CTE Phase II. Attendees included representatives from CSAC, CDE, CCCCO, DOF, OSE and three Project Directors.

### **March 4, 2009 meeting**

The attendees reached consensus on the following expectations for Phase II:

- Efforts should target economically disadvantaged middle and high school students.
- There should be a statewide message focusing primarily on CTE and a secondary message regarding financial aid. The approved Cal-SOAP CTE Statewide Objective is provided in Tab 1.a.
- Direct services should be provided at the local level to implement the CTE message.

Additional program considerations include:

- The campaign should complement and augment the intent and provisions defined in SB70, the Governor's initiative on improving and strengthening CTE.
- Cal-SOAP consortiums are expected to leverage existing resources such as Partnership Academies, the 2+2 programs, and ROP.
- The consortium should utilize the CDE database which identifies CTE specific regions and existing programs.

### **March 18, 2009 meeting**

Discussion took place regarding the materials available through the WhodoUwant2B California Community College (CCC) campaign.

- Sample items will be made available to the Cal-SOAP project directors for consideration for use as a collateral platform for regional CTE activities.
- The Cal-SOAP Project Directors asked if the Academic Senate WhodoUwant2B representatives would conduct a webinar training session for the Project Directors. CSAC staff is working on setting up this training.

The group agreed that monies should be directed at programs which will maximize the funding level benefit and not be duplicative. All attendees acknowledged that existing Cal-SOAP contractual provisions remain in effect when CTE funds are added to the existing contracts:

- Match requirements
- 30% allocation for stipends for peer advisors and tutors
- Funding may be used for staff and/or operating expenses
- Up to 8% per consortium may be used for indirect costs

### **March 25, 2009 meeting:**

A meeting with the planning group is scheduled for March 25, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. A report on the results will be presented during the teleconference.

## **College Access Challenge Grant Reporting Requirements**

CACG Program grant recipients are required to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR). This report is used by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to determine if projects funded under CACG are making substantial progress in meeting goals and objectives of the grant, as outlined in the grant applications. Part 1 of the APR, due May 15, 2009, addresses the implementation of services and activities, project administration, and fiscal administration. Part 2, due August 31, 2009, collects data relating to CACG performance measures.

The basic CACG requirements are outlined in Tab 1.b. The approved goals and objectives for California's grant are provided in Tab 1.c.

At the March 18, 2009 CTE meeting, the group discussed how the Project Directors could incorporate CTE program activities into their existing Activity Report format. CSAC staff will be presenting a draft document at the March 25, CTE meeting that the Project Directors could use to compile the information CSAC needs to complete the CACG APR.

### **Commission Meeting April 16-17, 2009**

The Project Directors and CSAC staff met on January 29, 2009 and March 19, 2009 to discuss a number of issues, including the CACG Program and the implementation of CTE Phase II activities and funding. The Project Directors are working on an outline that could be used when requesting funding for Phase II activities. This outline will be discussed at the March 25, 2009 CTE meeting. An additional CTE meeting will be held prior to the next Commission meeting to discuss the Project Director's proposals for CTE Phase II funding.

Recommendations on projects and activities, as well as funding levels, will be presented to Commissioners at their April 16 & 17, 2009 meeting. Once approved, CSAC staff will work with the Project Directors to amend their existing Cal-SOAP contracts.

**Cal-SOAP CTE Statewide Objective****California Education Code §69561(f)**

*Projects may provide assistance to low-income middle and high school pupils and their parents in order to implement outreach efforts designed to use the future availability of financial assistance as a means of motivating pupils to stay in school by promoting career technical education public awareness. Projects shall promote the value of career technical education, available career programs in public schools and postsecondary segments with sequenced courses beginning in high school and continuing into postsecondary education, and the resulting career opportunities.*

CTE is an educational strategy that provides students with engaging curricula, career preparation, and opportunities for advancement. Career exploration and guidance functions serve students at all stages of the developmental continuum, first to awaken in children a sense of boundless possibility, and later to prepare adults for the multiple job challenges that they will experience over the course of their working lives. Knowledge of the available options, as well as awareness of personal interests, is essential to making good choices.

Cal-SOAP career technical education public awareness should:

- Promote opportunities for middle school students to participate in career awareness and exploration;
- Help high school students understand there are links between high school, career technical education and community college vocational programs and that high school CTE programs provide opportunity to enter community college, other postsecondary options, and the workforce; and
- Include information for students and parents that financial aid is available from the federal government, states, colleges and private sources for education and career training beyond high school.

**2008-09 College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) Requirements**

**Tab 1.b**

<p>General Background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 50 states, 6 U.S. territories awarded Challenge Grants totaling \$66 million</li> <li>✓ Formula grant based on number of residents within certain age ranges living under the federal poverty level.</li> <li>✓ California awarded \$7.67 million per year for two years. Two-year federal share of CACGP totals \$15.34 million.</li> <li>✓ California matched 1/3 of total project costs, or \$3.8 million, per year to meet non-federal matching requirement. California's two year non-federal mat2ch totals \$7.6 million.</li> <li>✓ CACGP funding administered by the California Student Aid Commission</li> <li>✓ Per AB 88 (Chapter 269), first year College Access Challenge Grant Program funds are provided for the following projects:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$6.349 million in sub grants to fund California Student Opportunity and Access Programs (Cal-SOAP)</li> <li>○ \$1 million to fund Cal-SOAPs to provide career technical awareness. The Commission shall consult with the CA Dept of Education and the CA Community College Chancellor's Office to identify CTE program activities.</li> <li>○ \$330,000 to fund California Cash for College</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Program Goals and Objectives &amp; Performance Measures</p>	<p>States must meet substantial annual progress (considered on a case by case basis) on program goals and objectives</p> <p>States must prioritize activities to students and their families who are living below the federal poverty line, adjusted for CA.</p> <p>States must meet the federal Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ties federal funding to results for greater accountability. Project objectives and activities must reflect GPRA indicators.</li> <li>✓ GPRA indicators for CACGP: (Page 13 of DRAFT Annual Performance Report)             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the number of high school seniors who received services as a result of the CACGP in the FY 2008 academic year.</li> <li>2. Must measure the percentage of high school seniors served by grant that complete a FAFSA.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<p>Duration of Grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2 years</li> <li>✓ Year one performance period – August 14, 2008 through August 13, 2009. Year two grants targeted for application in Spring 2009 and awarded July 2009</li> <li>✓ Tydings Amendment allows CACG grantees to carryover for one additional year any Federal education funds that were not obligated in the period for which they were appropriated.</li> </ul>
<p>Reporting Timeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Annual Performance Report: Part 1 due May 15, 2009; Part 2 due August 31, 2009.</li> </ul>

**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION  
COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT  
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

<b>A. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>B. ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES</b>
<b>Provide measurable goals and objectives.</b>	<b>List the activities and services that will be conducted to accomplish the goals and objectives.</b>
1. To increase the availability of college and career opportunity information for underrepresented students and their parents.	Provide statewide promotion of college and career technical opportunities to targeted middle and high school students; conduct individual and small group college admissions counseling sessions; career exploration workshops; college and career search assistance. Develop, update and disseminate a range of written and web-based informational material.
2. To increase targeted students' and parent/guardian knowledge of financial aid programs and opportunities to fund college and career technical education.	In major regions of the state, conduct fall financial aid workshops, scholarship searches, loan counseling. Provide links to web based resources, including written and web-based information on career exploration resources.
3. To increase the number of targeted students who enroll in postsecondary education and career technical programs.	In major regions of the state, conduct college tours, college search assistance, career exploration workshops, college admissions workshops, informational parent counseling.
4. To assist low-income and first-time college and career education bound students and their parents' successfully apply for federal, state and scholarship financial aid programs.	Direct students and parents to attend FAFSA workshops using online, print, and grassroots awareness; offer FAFSA workshops in targeted high need and geographically balanced areas, within the state financial aid application window; offer FAFSA application/correction follow-up assistance.
5. To provide loan repayment benefits to teachers employed in high need subject and geographic areas, and low-income/low performing schools in California.	Continue promotion of loan repayment opportunities in the teaching and nursing professions. Engage college campuses to continue recommending the highest number of candidates possible.