

Information /Action Item

CAL-SOAP Advisory Committee

CSAC Staff Report

Attached is the Cal-SOAP Update document provided to the Commission at its November 29, 2007 meeting. Staff will provide a supplemental oral update to the Committee on activities in Cal-SOAP.

Responsible staff:

Kim Taylor, CSAC
Outreach Manager

California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Update

MOVING FORWARD DESPITE RECENT REDUCTION

Cal-SOAP projects were required to update and adjust their Annual Program Plans to accommodate the statewide budget reduction before the contracting process could proceed. Thirteen projects have submitted their updated plans and Commission staff has sent contracts out to the consortia. (San Francisco and Los Angeles program directors have indicated their plans are forthcoming.) After obtaining signatures from consortia representatives, the contracts will be returned to the Commission and then forwarded to the Department of General Services for final approval. We expect to have contracts in place by the first week of December.

SOLANO AREA UPDATE

This year, the Commission issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to reestablish Cal-SOAP services in the Solano area. Regional partners have collaborated and submitted a proposal to form a new consortium and implement a new Cal-SOAP project in the region. The proposed consortium includes: Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo Unified School Districts, University of California at Berkeley and Davis, Community Colleges at Solano and Napa Valley, California Maritime Academy and CSU East Bay, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and the Tri-City NAACP. After review of the Solano proposal, staff expects to make a recommendation to the Executive Director by November 16 on whether to proceed with awarding a planning grant. Assuming the new regional group is successful in receiving a planning grant, it will be tasked with creating a new consortia and revising its scope of work by April 2008.

ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

The Cal-SOAP project director data committee and CSAC staff met on October 23, 2007 at the South County (Gilroy) Cal-SOAP to discuss future data needs for the program as well as new allocation methodology strategies. Staff will continue to work with the project director's to develop a new process for allocating Cal-SOAP funds in the future. In addition to project director input we will present the issue to the Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee and seek its input. Staff will present the results of its discussions, as well as an implementation plan for changing the funding process for Cal-SOAP, at the next scheduled Commission meeting.

CAL SOAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

New members were appointed to the Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, appointed Dr. Steven Fischer to fill one vacancy and the State Senate Rules Committee appointed Angela Acosta to fill their vacancy on the committee. Despite these two welcome additions to the committee, three vacancies remain. The three vacancies include the Commission's representative, a representative for the Speaker of the State Assembly, and a student representative for California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), a recently vacated position. Commission staff continues to work with appointing authorities to fill these vacancies.

The Cal-SOAP Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on December 5, 2007. We hope a quorum of members will attend and allow us to move forward with obtaining the committee's input on critical program matters. The Project Directors are scheduled to meet on December 4 and will continue discussion on a new funding allocation methodology.