College Access Challenge Grant

The Federal Policy Climate Explained

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History of the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG)

- Authorized in the 2007 College Cost Reduction And Access Act
- 2 years of formula, mandatory funding of $66 million for FY 2008 and FY 2009
- Created to incentivize foundations to provide additional aid for low-income students

Chairman George Miller
Federal Budget Process

President's Budget

Congressional Budget Resolution

Reconciliation
Authorizing Committees
Change Current Law

Appropriations
Appropriations Committees
Fund Current Law
The President’s FY 2010 Budget

“The [CACG] program would be replaced by the much larger and better structured College Access and Completion Fund, for which the Administration is requesting $2.5 billion over 5 years to focus on the twin goals of college access and completion.”

Barack Obama
The Access and **Completion** Fund

$2.5 billion over 5 years to build partnerships to improve **college success and completion**

- **This mandatory** program would make flexible grants for **innovative programs** to produce **data** for evaluation.
- Could use funds to continue college outreach and information activities now supported through **FFEL program subsidies**.
Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009

Creates a **College Access and Completion Innovation Fund** by amending the College Access Challenge Grant

- Intended to bolster college access and completion support programs for students.
- Invests **$600 million a year** of mandatory money
- Authorized for **4 years** and split between **4 programs**
College Access and Completion Innovation Fund

- CACG: 25%
- State Innovation Completion Grants: 50%
- Innovation in College Access and Completion: 24%
- National Evaluation: 1%
College Access and Completion Innovation Fund

College Access Challenge Grant

- The current structure would remain the same
- It would **increase** funding for CACG from $66 million to **$150 million** annually
- Adds 3 new programs

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**Change in Funding for CACG**

- CACG in CCRA
- CACG in SAFR

- Change in Funding for CACG
College Access and Completion Innovation Fund

State Innovation Completion Grants

• Funded at $300 million annually
• Promote college enrollment, persistence, and completion
• Will be competitive
• Require a 1/3 match in state/or private money
• Priority to states in partnerships with guarantee agencies or philanthropic organizations
Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 New Programs

Innovation in College Access and Completion National Activities

- Funded at $144 million annually
- To advance knowledge about what increases the number of postsecondary degrees
- Will be competitive grants

National Evaluation

- Funded at $6 million annually
- Will be conducted by Institutes of Education Sciences
Reconciliation

What will the Senate do?
Other Resources: GAP

Grants for Access and Persistence

• As part of LEAP, GAP requires less matching funds for states who provide the services below

College Access Challenge Grant

• Professional development for councilors
• Student loan reduction
• Promote financial literacy

• Need based Grant Aid
• Outreach and Mentoring
• Assistance with Financial Aid Applications
Other Resources: Talent Search

**Talent Search**
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Career exploration or aptitude assessment
- Info. on student financial aid
- Help preparing for college entrance exams

**CACG**
- Need-based grant aid
- Promote financial literacy
- Professional development for councilors
- Student loan reduction

- Help completing the FAFSA
- Outreach on college and career preparation
- Counseling and Outreach
Access to Additional Resources

• Who are you competing with?
• How does your work stack up in the current political and policy environment?
  – Is it focused on completion?
  – Is it innovative?
  – Does it have an evaluation component that collects good data?
  – Is it transferable to other states?
Current CACG Programs Look Like This

- Professional development (>50%)
- FAFSA/financial aid assistance (>50%)
- Information—career, academic (>30%)
- Hotline/Web portal (>30%)
- Student scholarships/grants/ loan cancellations/ repayments (>30%)
- Mass media campaigns (>20%)
Successful Projects Identified by ED

• **KS** - Increased counselors’ awareness of college opportunities for disadvantaged students in the state through training workshops.

• **NE** - Increased the number of high school students taking college courses by 351, almost doubling the number of recipients.

• **PA** - Delivered coordinated, intensive services to 16,629 students in seven low-income high schools.
Conclusion

To access additional resources

• Senate Reconciliation bill
• Focus on innovative ideas
• Evaluating those ideas
• Add pieces on completion
• How to scale up successful projects
• Investigate other Federal resources
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