

MDHE TO RELEASE CACGP SUB GRANT RFP SOON

Implementing the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) has been an ongoing effort for the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE), who recently received approval to administer a sub grant to non-profit philanthropic and consortia organizations. Groups interested in learning how to obtain the sub grant will soon get an up close glimpse of the CACGP, as the MDHE plans to distribute RFP application materials by the end of the 2008 calendar year.

Under the CACGP, the MDHE is currently working to increase the number of Missouri students who view postsecondary education as a viable option for their futures. Enacted in the fall of 2007 as a part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the CACGP was established by Congress in an effort to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments with low-income students who are underrepresented in posted secondary education.

This federal mandate is being carried out on the state level with the aid of the CACGP's three-pronged approach. Serving as the program's guide, the three-pronged approach aims to provide assistance geared specifically toward helping Missouri students and their families to learn how to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. To support this effort, the state of Missouri received approximately \$1.1 million in federal grant funds for the 2009 fiscal year with the option for an additional award in 2010.

With the addition of the sub grant, the MDHE will target initiatives under the CACGP's Competitive Grant approach, which was designed to disperse funds to programs that build and strengthen outreach activities offered by non-profit organizations that assist Missouri students and families in preparing for higher education.

General eligibility criteria for groups to participate include having been in existence prior to the enactment of the federal statute, be classified as a not-for-profit, demonstrate a successful experience in postsecondary education outreach and awareness activities, possess the ability to conduct performance reporting, and maintain an adequate record system.

Submitted grant proposals will be required to meet guidelines established by the CACGP's federal statutes. Under the CACGP sub grant, non-profit philanthropic and consortia organizations may receive up to \$100,000 with a second-year option to re-new based on ability to comply with reporting requirements and preliminary performance measures.

Preference will be given to proposals geared toward providing information to students and families in regards to postsecondary education and career benefits, promoting financial literacy and debt management, conducting outreach activities to students at risk of not enrolling in a postsecondary institution, and assisting students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

As soon as the RFP and application materials are available, the MDHE will send an electronic message to all *Digest* subscribers. If you are not signed-up to receive MDHE communications, you may do so online at: <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/mdhedigest/signup.shtml>. Questions regarding the competitive grant may be directed to MDHE research associate, Tim Hopkins at (573) 751-2361 or timothy.hopkins@dhe.mo.gov

