



COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT (CACG) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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➤ **Background**

- The College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) program is designed to increase low-income and at-risk student enrollment in postsecondary institutions by improving the various ways in which these students and their families get information about financial aid and college.
- The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education; recipient agencies are determined by state governors, and are typically state higher education offices.
- For 2008 and 2009, \$66M was allocated to states on a formula basis (based on number of state residents living in poverty); for 2010 and 2011, the appropriation increased to \$150M per year.
- State project organizers are encouraged to build partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations to provide matching challenge grants.
- The deadline for states to submit applications to the U.S. Department of Education for the 2010 and 2011 grant cycle is July 2, 2010; note that applications are broad in scope.
- The Department of Education is encouraging states to use data and develop metrics to demonstrate program success.

➤ **Activities and services authorized by CACG**

- Provide information to students and families on postsecondary education benefits, opportunities, planning and career preparation;
- Provide information on financing options, including activities that promote financial literacy and debt management among students and families;
- Conduct outreach activities for students who may be at risk of not enrolling in or completing college;
- Assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Offer need based grant aid to students;
- Implement professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, and financial aid administrators and college admissions counselors at institutions of higher education, to improve such individuals' capacity to assist students and parents with:
 - Understanding:
 - Entrance requirements for admission to institutions of higher education, and
 - State eligibility requirements for Academic Competitiveness Grants or National SMART Grants;
 - Applying to institutions of higher education, applying for financial assistance and scholarships;
 - Activities that increase students' ability to successfully complete the coursework required for a postsecondary degree (including tutoring and mentoring); and
 - Activities to improve secondary school students' preparedness for postsecondary entrance examinations.
- Repayment of student loans, student loan cancellation, or lowering of interest rates. States are not allowed to use funds to promote any lender's loans.

College Access Challenge Grant – Estimated Funding Allocation By State

State or Other Area	Recovery Act	2009 Actual	2010 Estimate	2011 Estimate
Alabama	0	1,128,810	2,052,910	2,052,910
Alaska	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Arizona	0	1,348,705	2,931,727	2,931,727
Arkansas	0	706,129	1,500,000	1,500,000
California	0	7,678,868	15,038,830	15,038,830
Colorado	0	852,698	1,651,716	1,651,716
Connecticut	0	419,180	1,500,000	1,500,000
Delaware	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
District of Columbia	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Florida	0	3,116,708	6,391,555	6,391,555
Georgia	0	2,089,027	4,170,570	4,170,570
Hawaii	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Idaho	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Illinois	0	2,411,050	4,621,733	4,621,733
Indiana	0	1,223,581	2,440,928	2,440,928
Iowa	0	474,145	1,500,000	1,500,000
Kansas	0	501,584	1,500,000	1,500,000
Kentucky	0	1,019,425	2,051,545	2,051,545
Louisiana	0	1,239,533	2,221,573	2,221,573
Maine	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Maryland	0	615,592	1,500,000	1,500,000
Massachusetts	0	879,879	1,703,211	1,703,211
Michigan	0	2,092,786	4,268,548	4,268,548
Minnesota	0	735,025	1,500,000	1,500,000
Mississippi	0	932,499	1,850,911	1,850,911
Missouri	0	1,148,535	2,249,306	2,249,306
Montana	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Nebraska	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Nevada	0	383,809	1,500,000	1,500,000
New Hampshire	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
New Jersey	0	1,097,047	2,191,189	2,191,189
New Mexico	0	556,798	1,500,000	1,500,000

New York	0	4,017,131	7,601,629	7,601,629
North Carolina	0	1,898,671	3,827,447	3,827,447
North Dakota	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Ohio	0	2,268,044	4,381,431	4,381,431
Oklahoma	0	915,434	1,694,526	1,694,526
Oregon	0	697,006	1,500,000	1,500,000
Pennsylvania	0	2,105,061	4,167,672	4,167,672
Rhode Island	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
South Carolina	0	989,701	1,917,048	1,917,048
South Dakota	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Tennessee	0	1,410,814	2,716,766	2,716,766
Texas	0	6,262,491	11,845,689	11,845,689
Utah	0	433,354	1,500,000	1,500,000
Vermont	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Virginia	0	1,010,008	2,240,031	2,240,031
Washington	0	1,116,302	2,084,539	2,084,539
West Virginia	0	448,769	1,500,000	1,500,000
Wisconsin	0	911,111	1,638,380	1,638,380
Wyoming	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
American Samoa	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Guam	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Northern Mariana Islands	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Puerto Rico	0	2,594,690	5,048,590	5,048,590
Virgin Islands Freely Associated States	0	330,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Indian set-aside Undistributed (non-State allocations)	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	66,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000

NOTE: State allocations for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 program are preliminary estimates based on currently available data. Allocations based on new data may result in significant changes from these preliminary estimates.