

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[CFDA No.: 84.069]

**Office of Postsecondary Education;  
Leveraging Educational Assistance  
Partnership Program****AGENCY:** Department of Education.**ACTION:** Notice of the Closing Date for Receipt of State Applications for Fiscal Year 1999.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Education (Secretary) gives notice of the closing date for receipt of State applications for fiscal year 1999 funds under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program. This program was formerly known as the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) Program. This program, through matching formula grants to States, provides grant aid to students with substantial financial need to help them pay for their postsecondary education costs. The LEAP Program supports Goals 2000, the President's strategy for moving the Nation toward the National Education Goals, by enhancing opportunities for postsecondary education. The National Education Goals call for increasing the rate at which students graduate from high school and pursue high quality postsecondary education.

Under section 415C(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the State must submit an application through the State agency that administered its LEAP (SSIG) Program as of July 1, 1985, unless the Governor of the State has subsequently designated, and the Secretary has approved, a different State agency to administer the program.

The Secretary is authorized to accept applications from the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Authority for this program is contained in sections 415A through 415F of the HEA.

**Closing Date for Transmittal of Applications:** An application for fiscal year 1999 LEAP funds must be mailed or hand-delivered by March 31, 1999.

**Application Form:** The Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs will mail the required application form for receiving LEAP funds to officials of the appropriate State agency in each State or territory at least 30 days before the closing date.

**Applications Delivered by Mail:** An application sent by mail must be addressed to: Mr. Harold McCullough,

Chief, Grants Branch, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, ROB-3, Room 3045, Washington, DC 20202-5447.

The Secretary will accept the following proof of mailing:

(1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark;

(2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service;

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier; or

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of Education.

If an application is sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the Secretary does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark; or

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

The Department of Education encourages applicants to use certified or at least first-class mail.

A late applicant cannot be assured that its application will be considered for fiscal year 1999 funding.

**Applications Delivered by Hand:** An application that is hand-delivered must be taken to Mr. Harold McCullough, Chief, Grants Branch, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, 7th and D Streets, SW, ROB-3, Room 3045, Washington, DC. Hand-delivered applications will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily (Eastern time), except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

An application that is hand-delivered will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on the closing date.

**Program Information:** Section 415C(a) of the HEA requires that an annual application be submitted for a State or territory to receive LEAP funds. In preparing the application, each State agency should be guided by the table of allotments provided in the application package.

State allotments are determined according to the statutorily mandated formula under section 415B of the HEA and are not negotiable. A State may also request its share of reallocation, in addition to its basic allotment, which is contingent upon the availability of such additional funds. In fiscal year 1998, 47 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Trust Territory (Palau), and the Virgin Islands received funds under the LEAP (SSIG) Program.

**Applicable Regulations:** The following regulations are applicable to the LEAP Program:

(1) The LEAP Program regulations in 34 CFR part 692.

(2) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR part 75.60 through 75.62 (Ineligibility of Certain Individuals to Receive Assistance), part 76 (State-Administered Programs), part 77 (Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations), part 79 (Intergovernmental Review of Department of Education Programs and Activities), part 80 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments), part 82 (New Restrictions on Lobbying), part 85 (Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)), and part 86 (Drug-Free Schools and Campuses).

(3) The Student Assistance General Provisions in 34 CFR part 668.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information contact Mrs. Jackie Butler, Program Specialist, Grants Branch, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, ROB-3, Room 3045, Washington, DC 20202-5447; telephone (202) 707-8242.

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**Note:** The official version of this document  
is the document published in the **Federal  
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Dated: February 9, 1999.

**Greg Woods,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student  
Financial Assistance Programs.*

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