

Update on Federal Funding For Two-Year Colleges

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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INTRODUCTION

In November 2009, prior to the Council for Resource Development (CRD) annual conference in Washington, DC, a team of over 50 representatives from two year colleges across the country participated in the Federal Funding Task Force. Teams visited federal agencies to learn about federal funding opportunities to two year colleges and updated CRD's annual report, the *Federal Funding to Two-Year Colleges Report*. Each participant visited three agencies to interview agency staff and share information about the work of two year colleges. As a task force participant, Maggi LeClair received a full debriefing of all the visits. This report contains highlights of the debriefing session combined with information from some of the conference sessions as well as additional research since the conference. It includes links to information about the grant programs.

FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

American Graduation Initiative (AGI)

- In July 2009, President Obama proposed the American Graduation Initiative, a \$12 billion federal investment to substantially expand the capacity of the nation's community college system.
- A bill has passed in the House of Representatives but the initiative is still awaiting action in the Senate.
- The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is actively working with Congress on this initiative. A robust web page is available at www.aacc.nche.edu/Advocacy/aginitiative/Pages.
- David Baime, Vice President for Government Relations for AACC, and Jee Hang Lee, Director of Public Policy for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), presented an update on AGI at the conference.
 - The House bill ([H.R. 3221: Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009](#)) includes a provision for a competition in late spring 2010 with funding beginning September 30, 2010. The Senate bill has implementation beginning in 2011.
 - The House bill includes two cycles of grants within one year. The Senate bill includes funding over several years.
 - Colleges may be eligible for both an individual grant and consortium grant if they are for different types of projects.
 - AACC's biggest concerns about the bill are the large match requirement and Section 504 of the House Bill (related to state grants).
 - AACC's Community College National Legislative Summit is scheduled for February 8-10, 2010.
- Glenn A. Cummings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, highlighted three areas he believes will be priorities for AGI grants when he spoke at the CRD Plenary Session:
 - Expanding/enhancing dual enrollment to target those who might not otherwise go to college. He gave an example of a project that might use Fridays to bring high school student to the campus for educational activities.
 - Looking for models to improve outcomes for Developmental Education (i.e., Cleveland College in Tennessee and North Hampton Community College in Pennsylvania).
 - Reducing risk factors for students through personal connection and focus on relationships.

Agency for International Development (USAID)

- USAID (<http://www.usaid.gov/>) is the principal U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms. Their four areas of interest are global climate change, food security, water issues, health and communicable diseases. Although their website includes a lot of information about higher education as well.

- Individuals can get their names on a roster to be a consultant to provide technical assistance in a foreign country
- The agency encourages faculty and administrators to serve as grant reviewers
- To indicate your interest in serving as a consultant or a grant reviewer, send an email to HED@HEDprogram.org. Send the following information: name, job title, organization name, contact information, and description of your area of interest (serving as a technical assistance consultant or serving as a grant reviewer).

Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS)

- Learn and Serve America grants are used to create new programs or replicate existing programs, as well as to provide training and professional development to educators and volunteers. Service-learning programs allow colleges to combine community service activities with educational, civic, or leadership objectives. All Learn and Serve America programs work to support education, the environment, public safety, and other human needs. (www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/funding)
- Model programs include AACC, Northern Virginia Community College, and Miami-Dade College.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- The New Era Rural Technology Competitive Grants Program will make grants available to community colleges or advanced technological centers, located in a rural area, for technology development, applied research, and training necessary to produce graduates capable of strengthening the nation's technical, scientific and professional workforce in the fields of bioenergy, pulp and paper manufacturing, and agriculture-based renewable energy resources. Due date is April 14, 2010 (www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/10_newera.pdf)

Department of Education – Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

- The Special Focus Programs will be repeated for displaced workers and course materials rentals. Announcement will likely be early in 2010 with a 60-day window before applications are due. The competition will not have a major focus on support services. Projects must be highly innovative.
- The Comprehensive Program is expected to be advertised in February 2010 and will most likely have invitational priorities.
- The program staff mentioned that they rarely hear from administrators—especially related to innovative cost saving strategies.
- Program officers are very open to discussing project ideas and encourage prospective applicants to call them to get their perspective on projects.
- Partnerships and collaborations will strengthen applications.
- Projects should target reform and innovation, do things in different ways, serve as a new model, and have implications for other institutions.
- Projects must be highly innovative (not just locally innovative). Applicants may try doing something that has been done before but with a different population (not just a different site).
- Projects should not be an implementation of already developed innovative ideas. The project must be innovation not dissemination, replication, or expansion.
- As the level of innovation increases, the requirement for evidence of potential effectiveness decreases.
- Assessment is critical—should be 10% of the budget. Must be able to measure the effectiveness of activities. But the evaluation narrative should be about half a page.
- Ask, “Is this something I could propose to the League for Innovation in the Community College?” Review the League’s website (www.league.org). Also see the Community College Research Center’s website (<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Research.asp>).
- The FIPSE program is seeking more grant reviewers from community colleges (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse - scroll to end).

Department of Education – Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools (OSDFS)

- The OSDFS website provides resources related to campus security:
 - Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (<http://rems.ed.gov>)
 - Higher Education Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention (<http://higheredcenter.org>)
- OSDFS is seeking grant reviewers (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/peerreview.html).

Department of Education – Title III

- Eligibility application is due in January.

Department of Education – Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

- Columbia University receives funding to operate the **Community College Research Center**, which conducts research on the major issues affecting community colleges in the United States and contributes to the development of practice and policy. Access research products on their website (<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Research.asp>).
- Resources on best practices are excellent to support strategies used in grants.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- Encourage faculty to volunteer as reviewers for grant programs (<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webReview>)

Department of Justice

- The Office of Violence Against Women has a grant program planning guide online (www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/resource-guidebook.pdf).
- Colleges are not eligible for most of the DOJ programs. However, many projects include training requirements, so look for opportunities for partnerships. Colleges can receive sub-awards.
- The DOJ grants webpage has links to grant programs (www.justice.gov/10grants)

Department of Labor – Career Pathways Innovation Fund

- The Career Pathways Innovation Fund will take the place of the Community-Based Job Training Grants (CBJTG), which will continue the support for community colleges provided by the CBJTG, but focus on career pathway programs at community colleges.
- Career pathway programs are clear sequences of coursework and credentials, each leading to a better job in a particular field, such as health care, law enforcement, and clean energy. These programs have multiple entry and exit points and often include links to services, such as basic adult education and English as a Second Language classes, which make them accessible to individuals who are not yet prepared to enroll in college courses.
- Applicants will be required to demonstrate that the career pathway program prepares individuals for careers that have current or projected job openings in the region.

Department of Labor – Community Based Job Training Grants (CBJTG)

- There will be one more round of grants, although the funding may be included in the first round of the Career Pathways grants (see above). The due date will likely be in spring.

Department of State (DOS)

- David Levin (Sr. Program Manager) will visit colleges to talk about DOS programs including Fulbright programs
- Gilman Scholarships are available for Pell Grant Recipients to study abroad (\$5,000 with an additional \$3,000 possible) (www.iie.org/gilman).
- The Fulbright Occasional Lecturer Program provides assistance for visiting international scholars who are in the U.S. conducting research at major research institutions, to visit college campuses for two to five days to lecture on a broad range of subjects and to provide cultural experiences. The college must pay per diem, lodging, and local transportation. The Fulbright program pays for air travel. A list of scholars by discipline area is available at (www.cies.org/schlr_directories/vsdir09/discipline.htm).
- DOS provides opportunities for international education or ESOL instructors to study abroad.
- The Community College Initiative Program enables individuals from Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, and selected countries in Central America to spend one year studying at community colleges in the United States and earn a vocational certificate. (<http://exchanges.state.gov/globalexchanges/community-colleges-initiative.html>).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA fellowships and other student programs: EPA offers multiple fellowship, internship, and other opportunities for students at various EPA locations nationwide (www.epa.gov/careers/stuopp.html). EPA is very interested in working with two-year colleges.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Funding can be used for bricks and mortar (i.e., a center) especially in rural areas. The applicant needs to be CDBG eligible. If a center is needed, get it into the five year plan. CDBG Contacts are as follows:
 - City of Panama City, Michael Johnson, 872-7230
 - State of Florida, Gail D. Stafford, Acting Administrator, Department of Community Affairs, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100, (850) 992-1885
- Hope VI Grants can also provide partnership opportunities for weatherization training (www.hud.gov/energystar/hope.cfm).

National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) – Space Grant

- Space Grant is a national network of colleges and universities working to enhance science and engineering education, research and public outreach efforts. The 52 consortia fund fellowships and scholarships for students pursuing careers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology (STEM), as well as curriculum enhancement and faculty development. Member colleges and universities also administer pre-college and public service education projects in their states.
- Florida Space Grant Consortium: University of Central Florida
 Dr. Jaydeep Mukherjee, Director, Florida Space Grant Consortium, Building M6-306, Room 7010, Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899
 Phone: (321) 452-4301, Ext. 3
 Fax: (321) 449-0739
 E-mail: fsgc@mail.ucf.edu
 Web site: <http://fsgc.engr.ucf.edu>

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- NEH is seeking community college reviewers. Call the program you want to review. Be prepared to send your resume. (www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html)

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- The Council for Undergraduate Research offers the Mentor Network, which matches individuals seeking information about starting, sustaining, or re-initiating undergraduate research programs to experienced, tenured CUR faculty (www.cur.org).
- NSF is seeking grant reviewers. Contact the program officer and send resume.
 - Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5464
 - Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) Program: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741
 - NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257
- NSF recommends that to get started in the CCLI program it is best to start with a level 1 project.
- NSF encourages discussing projects with program managers as well as visits to NSF by a team with up to 2 PIs and a grant writer (however, they expect the faculty will be the primary writer). The recommended process is to call to discuss the idea with the program manager and to send a white paper (about 2 pages) to the program manager in advance of the visit.
- The ATE program may be \$60 million in 2010.
- Colleges can invite NSF to give a workshop for faculty at no cost to the institution(s). They recommend opening the workshop to several colleges.

SUMMARY

The information presented in this brief may be helpful in setting priorities for seeking grants; however, much of the information is best suited to help build the college's capacity for acquiring grants and to help students connect with agencies for enhanced educational opportunities such as fellowships, internships, and scholarships.

- Many agencies are reaching out to community colleges by actively seeking grant reviewers from community colleges. Serving as a grant reviewer offers opportunities to learn more about the grant programs, learn more about what constitutes a strong grant proposal, make contacts with program officers, and network with faculty and administrators throughout the United States. The following agencies specifically mentioned that they are seeking grant reviewers from two-year colleges:
 - FIPSE - www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse
 - OSDFS - www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/peerreview.html
 - HHS HRSA - <https://grants.hrsa.gov/webReview>
 - NEH - www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html
 - NSF –
 - ATE: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5464
 - CCLI: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741
 - S-STEM: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257
- The [Community College Research Center](#) and [League for Innovation in the Community College](#) provide research that can be valuable in preparing grant applications.
- The [Council for Undergraduate Research](#) offers a mentoring network for starting undergraduate research programs.
- Agencies such as FIPSE and NSF recommend contacting program officers during the development of project ideas and are willing to provide guidance to strengthen the project design,

and the Department of State and NSF are willing to visit colleges to provide information about their programs.

- The Department of State, EPA, NASA, and NSF all have scholarship programs and/or provide opportunities for students to participate in research opportunities at national laboratories or in international education.