



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

August 17, 2020

John Holdnak
Gulf Coast State College
5230 West Hwy. 98
Panama City, FL 32401

P042A200042

Dear John Holdnak:

Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) has approved the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Student Support Services (SSS) Program grant application from your institution. Please review the grant award notification (GAN) document and attachments carefully (previously sent electronically) and notify the appropriate officials at your institution of their receipt.

The first year of funding under your FY 2020 grant award cycle will commence on September 1, 2020 and the award is anticipated to continue for five years ending August 31, 2025. Subsequent years of continuation funding will be issued contingent upon your demonstrating that the project has made substantial progress in achieving its approved goals and objectives.

Important to the successful administration of the grant is a thorough familiarity with the SSS Program authorizing statute (as updated by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008); the SSS Program regulations; the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards¹, and the GAN along with the content of all attachments. You should provide these important documents to the business office at your institution. I also recommend discussions between project directors and business officers to ensure that all are aware of the financial management requirements that apply to your SSS Program grant.

The latest Annual Low-Income Levels that you will use to select participants for the SSS project are posted on our website at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html>. We have attached a set of the non-federal reviewers' evaluations of your FY 2020 SSS Program grant application and the project profile summary sheet, which includes the FY 2020 funding amount, the number of participants funded to serve, and the standardized objectives from your project as included in the program narrative section and/or on the profile sheet submitted with the funded application.

¹<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/uniform-guidance/index.html>

The FY 2020 appropriation for the Federal TRIO Programs is \$1,090,000,000, which includes a \$30,000,000 increase over the FY 2019 funding level. With this increase in the appropriation, the Department determined that Federal TRIO Program grantees, including those funded under the SSS Program, are eligible to receive a 3.5% across-the-board increase in their awards for project year 2020-2021. The GAN that you received reflects the 3.5% increase in funding for the project year 2020-2021.

Regarding your budget for the upcoming year, the following is very important: You are required to submit a revised budget that reflects the funded award amount indicated in Block #7 of the GAN. **The budget must be a detailed itemized budget, including a detailed budget narrative, and must be submitted to your assigned program specialist by September 4, 2020.** Beginning the week of September 7, 2020, your assigned Program Specialist, who can be found in Box #3 of the GAN will contact you, pending the review of the application, the reviewers' comments and the revised budget to discuss any need for programmatic and/or budget revisions or adjustments.

Following that discussion, you will receive written notification that the project profile summary sheet is approved, or you will receive a revised project profile summary sheet. Our goal is to complete this process by November 30, 2020, as we realize how important it is for you to have approved project objectives. Your assigned Program Specialist will also be able to discuss any programmatic or technical assistance issues which you may have at that time.

Again, congratulations on your success in the FY 2020 SSS Program competition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Byrd-Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" being the most prominent.

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.
Senior Director
Student Service

CC: Diane Garrard, Program Director

Attachments:
Non-federal Reviewers' Evaluations
Project Profile Summary Sheet