

News to Know
Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
August 2009

President Obama's 2010 Proposed Budget

As many of you know, President Obama has released his 2010 Federal Budget proposal, which contains language that would eliminate the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) agrees with President Obama's desire to support increased funding for needy students because that has been OSFA's goal in the past and will continue to be OSFA's goal in the future. As Florida's guaranty agency, we administer state scholarship and grant programs for the students and schools of Florida. We believe that Florida's students, parents, and schools benefit from having a local agency that supports the FFELP Loan Program. We believe that borrowers should have the right to choose the type of education loan they receive. We believe that we have proven our ability to provide outstanding customer service to our Florida students, parents, and schools, by visiting [http://www.usa.gov/ Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml) you may contact your congressional representative and senators to voice any concerns you may have about the 2010 Federal Budget proposal and how you feel about the FFELP.

Navigating Your Financial Future

NyFF Online E-News

The NyFF E-News is a free monthly newsletter that is available to your students. This electronic newsletter incorporates financial tips for college students. Topics include living frugally while in college, how to set up an emergency savings fund, financial Web site links, and more! Students may sign up for the NyFF E-News by visiting http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/ENews/ENews_Reg.aspx.

NyFF Workshops

Online Counseling

Navigating Your Financial Future's online counseling modules for *Financial Aid* and *School and Life Management* are now available. Contact your local Outreach Representative for details on how your institution can register for the following modules:

- Defaulted Borrower Counseling (**COMING SOON!**)
- Delinquent Borrower Counseling (**COMING SOON!**)
- Entrance Counseling
- Exit Counseling
- Financial Aid
- Financial Literacy
- Grace Period Counseling (**COMING SOON!**)
- Managing Your Budget
- Managing Your Credit
- Parent PLUS Counseling (**COMING SOON!**)
- Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt
- School and Life Management

On-Campus Counseling

Your local Outreach Representative can conduct each of the following on-campus workshops at no charge to your institution or students. Or if you prefer, your OSFA Outreach Representative can provide you or your staff all of the workshop materials to conduct your own counseling sessions. Workshop materials include PowerPoint Presentations, Presenter's Guides, Flyers, Brochures, and more! The following on campus workshops are currently available:

- Entrance Counseling (**NEW!**)
- Exit Counseling (**NEW!**)
- Career Planning
- Financial Aid
- Financial Literacy
- Managing Your Budget
- Managing Your Credit
- Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt
- School and Life Management

Important Announcements

State and Community Colleges in Florida

Schools that have name and program changes must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) for all Title IV funding. If you need additional information on how to process your name change, please contact your OSFA Outreach Representative.

2009 Program Review Guide

The [2009 Program Review Guide](#) for Institutions serves as a first point of reference for postsecondary academic institutions regarding the Title IV program review process. The Guide provides information about the general guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education for Department personnel tasked to conduct program reviews of institutions participating in the Title IV student financial assistance programs. The Guide also provides information to assist institutions in preparing for and participating in a program review.

National SMART Grant Program Update

National SMART Grant Program – List of Eligible Majors for Award Year 2009-2010
Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) ID: GEN-09-09 on July 7, 2009, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced the National SMART Grant Program's eligible majors for the 2009-10 award year. Additionally, ED updated page six of the list of eligible majors. [Click here](#) to view this DCL and the list of eligible majors.

College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday Florida is scheduled for January 31, 2010 and site applications are now being accepted for 2010. Please log on to their [website](#) and click on "Become a Site" to complete the application. The application deadline is August 14, 2009. Selected sites will be announced on September 1, 2009. This event's target populations include limited-income high school seniors, first generation college students, and limited-income families.

Every year in Florida, millions of dollars of Pell grants are left unclaimed simply because Pell-eligible students fail to complete the Free Application for Federal Student

Aid (FAFSA). Through College Goal Sunday, we can help limited-income and first generation college students fulfill their dreams of having access to and completing their college education by providing on-site expert assistance with completing the FAFSA. For additional questions regarding this event, you may contact Braulio Colón, Assistant Director of ENLACE at (813) 974-3897.

Dear Colleague Letters

Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) ID: [GEN-09-08](#): **Accrediting Agencies' Compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition as modified by the HEOA.** This letter elicit information from currently recognized accrediting agencies that will allow the Accreditation and State Liaison (ASL) staff to assess accrediting agencies' compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition in light of new provisions in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) (Public Law 110-315). In addition, information is provided to accrediting agencies on how the ASL staff will proceed with the review of accrediting agency petitions for recognition, reports, and other submissions prior to the publication of new regulations.

2009 Annual Electronic Common Manual Now Available

The 2009 annual update to the [Electronic Common Manual](#) now is available on the [Common Manual Web site](#). The updated manual incorporates changes approved during the past year by the *Common Manual* Governing Board. You'll need [Adobe Reader](#) to view and print the *Common Manual*.

State Scholarship & Grants

2009-2010 Master Eligibility List

The 2009-10 BF Master Eligibility List (MEL) is updated continuously with initial and renewal students. Renewal students populate the MEL once OSFA receives grades and hours and evaluates them. As of July 1, we will have over 99% of the BF grades and hours submitted and those students will have been evaluated and populate the MEL if eligible. On July 1, we open the summer grade and hours report for those student who have been found ineligible after spring. When institutions submit summer grades and hours, those student will be evaluated and populate the MEL if eligible.

Online State Grants and Scholarships Brochures

Our 2009/2010 State Grants and Scholarships brochures are available on our website. All [brochures](#) are available in the view and print format.

2009-10 Bright Futures Updates Questions and Answers

The 2009 Florida Legislative Session resulted in several changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program effective July 1, 2009, for the 2009-10 academic year. Additional information regarding these changes are available on our [website](#).

The OSFA Philosophy

As a public agency, OSFA has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few guarantors can: the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific concerns. Earnings generated from OSFA's loan programs are used to provide financial aid workshops, publications, and better services for our participants, and to help fund scholarship and grant programs. When schools and students choose to use the OSFA guarantee for student loans, they are actually helping countless other needy and deserving students by investing in education programs. So, if a participant has a problem or suggestion, OSFA management listens and does whatever it takes to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve that kind of accountability in education finance.