Student Financial Aid Bulletin May 12, 2009

## LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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TOPICS: Revised GO Grant distribution procedures due to anticipated funding shortfall

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline the revised GO Grant distribution procedures due to the anticipated funding shortfall.

Due to the anticipated shortfall in the Louisiana GO Grant funding, it was necessary to re-evaluate program eligibility and award amounts.

LOSFA collaborated with the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Advisory Committee to develop an eligibility and award amount aimed at equitable maximization of limited dollars. Although the Board of Regents continues to advocate for increased GO Grant funding, the appropriated amount remains level-funded at this time. LOSFA is in the process of initiating emergency rules to officiate this change.

The following method should be adhered to when packaging students for GO funding in the 09-10 Academic Year:

Funding will be allocated to campuses as outlined in the April 16, 2009 communication.

The Education Cost Gap calculation will remain the same: The Louisiana Basic College Costs plus \$2,000 minus the individual student's full time Pell Award.

The ECG amount will change from an indicator to an actual award amount for the academic year. Awards will range from \$200 to \$2,000 per academic year, depending upon the amount of the student's ECG.

Students with ECGs greater than \$199 would be awarded the actual amount of the ECG, up to a ceiling of \$2,000.

Students with ECGs greater than \$2,000 would be awarded the maximum award of \$2,000.

Students with ECGs of \$199 or less would not qualify to receive GO awards.

GO will not be awarded for the summer semester, with LOSFA funds or with school funds.

Schools will have autonomy relative to award distribution, e.g., first come, first served; priority to incoming students; priority to continuing students; or another method in line with the school's priority order. Schools are required to document the chosen priority/distribution method as a matter of policy and to adhere to the policy in a consistent manner. Documentation of compliance should be sufficiently present for audit purposes.

If you have further questions, please contact Bonnie Lavergne, at 225-922-0412.