

# OPENING DOORS

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***COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM***  
**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

# Purpose

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- To provide funding for planning and implementation of activities directly related to research, planning, and implementation of a one-day or one half-day program to provide financial aid information to students, parents, and educators leading to the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by members of underrepresented student population as defined by the Alabama College Access Challenge Grant.

# Opening Doors College Access Challenge Grant

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- Provide professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, financial aid administrators, and college admissions counselors.
- Provide Financial Aid awareness to students.
- Provide Financial Aid awareness to parents.
- Assist students in completing FAFSA forms and applications.

# FY 2009 Recipients

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- Bevill State Community College
- Calhoun Community College
- Gadsden State Community College
- Stillman College
- H. Council Trenholm State Technical College
- Troy University
- University of South Alabama
- Wallace State Community College – Dothan
- Wallace State Community College – Hanceville

# Funding

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- A maximum of twenty-four (24) grants up to \$20,000 will be available for implementation.
- RFPs are due January 5, 2010.

# Eligibility

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- All public and private postsecondary/higher education institutions that are currently in compliance with federal and state regulations are eligible.

# Types of Projects

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- Projects provide information to students and families regarding postsecondary education and career preparation.
- Promote financial literacy and debt management;
- Assist students in completing the FAFSA;
- Provide need-based grant aid;
- Provide professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, financial aid administrators, and college admissions counselors.

# Funding Priorities

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- Proposals that document strong partnerships for postsecondary/higher education institutions and local education agencies (LEAs) will be given priority.
- The partnership must represent the entire LEA, not individual schools or geographic areas.
- More than one postsecondary/higher education institution may partner for the activity.

# Request for Proposal (RFP)

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- Up to twenty-four (24) implementation grants in the amount of \$20,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis.
- Funds are available for obligation from January 15, 2010 through June 1, 2010.
- The deadline for submission is January 5, 2010.

# Implementation of Program Activities:

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- In chronological order, provide a detailed time line of activities for the program.
- All site coordinators must provide written documentation of all activities and participants.
  - Include samples of newspaper articles or clippings
  - Scripts from radio announcements
  - Brochures
  - Pamphlets
  - Trainer materials
  - Attendance Sheets
  - TV Broadcasts
  - Pictures
  - Flash Drives, etc.
- Keep a database of participants for all activities.
  - Using attendance rosters
  - FAFSA Web site completers
  - Telephone logs
  - Number enrolled in postsecondary institutions
  - Bus tours
  - All who are served through the College Access Challenge Grant Program.

See Appendix D

# Allowable Costs

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- The sites agree to use funds to pay for instructional materials, supplies, printing, professional development, substitutes, stipends, and travel.
  - Students
  - Parents
  - Teachers

# Ultimate Goal

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- Leading to the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by members of underrepresented student population
  - focusing on the Class of 2010.

# Professional Development and Student /Parent Activities

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- Brochure (handout)
- On-line courses (handout)
- Professional Development Workshops
  - Alabama Counseling Association Fall Workshop – November 2009
    - 800 school counselors
    - 200 college counselors
    - 250 counselors in private practice

# Upcoming Professional Development

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- Presentation at the Career Development Conference – January 29, 2010.
- Sponsoring *CareerForward* Training for school counselors located at Career Technical Centers in February.
- Sponsoring Career Facilitation Certification through CORD at Summer Conference, June 2010, for all counselors in attendance.
- Three (3) ½-day workshops on organizing a counseling program, ACIN, and Financial Literacy in partnership with the Federal Reserve, ALSCA, and CACG.
- Workshop at MEGA Conference, July 2010, for all interested attendees.
- Individual school system workshops for the middle and high school counselors.