

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI):

State Scholarship and Grant Management System
May 2014

Please respond no later than 5:00 PM Alaska Time, Friday, May 30, 2014.

General Information about the RFI:

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) is seeking information for the purpose of learning about options available to the state to manage the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and the Alaska Education Grant (AEG) programs. Specifically, ACPE seeks to learn about the options for specifications, capabilities, and functionality/flexibility/scalability of a grant and scholarship system, and associated price ranges and implementation timelines, that includes:

- Eligibility determination and prioritization in the event of insufficient program funding
- Individual and batch transaction processing and management
- Web-based account management interfaces for aid recipients
- Web-based interface for schools to manage individual student accounts and perform batch uploads/downloads
- Interfaces with external systems such as FAFSA data imports, exports to financial systems, etc.
- System canned and ad hoc reporting
- System maintenance and licensing
- System user documentation and training
- System implementation strategy and general timelines

ACPE is particularly interested in learning about the functionality and options included in similar systems in use in other states or institutions and requests 1) contact information for other states or institutions utilizing vendor-created grant and scholarship management systems, and 2) links to any product information or demonstrations available online.

More information about both the APS and the AEG is available online at www.acpe.alaska.gov. Please note that recent legislation provides for significant changes to the AEG, the requirements for which have not yet been fully identified, but which are expected to result in a full program redesign. Responses to this RFI are requested no later than Friday, May 30, 2014.

ACPE does not intend to award a contract from this RFI, nor will ACPE be financially responsible for the preparation of responses to this RFI. This RFI is issued for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to design and implementation services, and it may or may not be used to prepare a formal solicitation at a later date.

ACPE Organizational Information:

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) and the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) are instrumentalities of the State of Alaska and are partner organizations with a combined mission to provide the citizens of the State of Alaska with access to the benefits of higher education at the lowest possible cost.

ACPE was created and funded by the Legislature in 1974 to centralize planning for higher education and administer financial aid programs. In 1987, ASLC was established by the Legislature to fund the Commission's programs through tax-exempt bond sales. Repayments of principal and interest

received from loan recipients go to the Corporation's accounts and are used to repay principal and interest on the outstanding bond debt and to replenish the education loan fund for future applicants.

ACPE is a state agency, offering financial aid and outreach products and services designed to increase Alaskans' access and success in higher education and training through five primary service areas:

- Outreach and early awareness
- Promotion of postsecondary education participation in Alaska
- Research and analysis
- Financial aid for postsecondary education and training
- Education consumer protection through institutional authorization and consumer complaint investigation

Alaska Performance Scholarship Information:

The Alaska Performance Scholarship is a State of Alaska financial aid program, designed to assist qualifying Alaska high school students cover the cost of an Alaska postsecondary education. Alaska high school students who take a more rigorous curriculum, get good grades, and score well on college placement or work ready exams, can earn an Alaska Performance Scholarship to attend qualified Alaska colleges, universities, or vocational/technical programs. More information is available at www.aps.alaska.gov.

Alaska Education Grant Information:

The Alaska legislature created the Alaska Education Grant Program (AEG) to provide need-based financial assistance to eligible Alaska students attending qualifying postsecondary educational institutions in Alaska. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the grant is funded through the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund, a new source of long-term funding established in 2012 by the Alaska legislature. More information about the grant is available at http://acpe.alaska.gov/STUDENT-PARENT/Grants_Scholarships/AlaskAdvantage_Education_Grant; however, please note that the program is being redesigned.

Written responses may be sent by: US Mail, fax, or e-mail to the following address. Please note the State does not accept responsibility for failed fax or emailed response deliveries.

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