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**A Request for Proposal for Research Services for the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP)**

**Overview**

The National Association of State Student Grant and Aid programs (NASSGAP) seeks the contractual services of a research team with student financial aid analysis experience to develop a report to the NASSGAP President, which examines the HEA Title IV Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program. The contractor will be asked to respond to the report content included in this RFP, using data available through NASSGAP (including the annual NASSGAP survey, and prior research on SSIG, the predecessor program), the U.S. Department of Education (ED), and other sources as appropriate.

**Timetable**

Responses to this RFP are due to NASSGAP by July 14, 2006. Selection will be made and announced by NASSGAP by August 1, 2006. A final report is due to NASSGAP by October 1, 2006.

**Report Content**

(1) Update the January 1994 research paper by Dr. Jerry Davis entitled, "The Continuing Incentive In The Federal State Student Incentive Grant Program" (available on [www.nassgap.org](http://www.nassgap.org)), by applying more recent data collected by NASSGAP, ED and other sources to the SSIG, LEAP and Special LEAP programs, to assess the effects of the program on the maintenance and expansion of state student grant programs. The contractor will be able to use the NASSGAP survey new web query tool to help analyze the NASSGAP data.

(2) Respond to the study questions used in ED's PART analysis of LEAP/SLEAP, using appropriate information sources, including interviews with state student grant agency staffs.

(3) In developing # 1& 2, include responses to the following research questions:

a) Is the LEAP/SLEAP program effective in meeting its statutory purpose? Are the program resources reaching intended beneficiaries? What performance measures support this analysis?

b) What unique characteristics of LEAP, compared to other federal student aid programs, work to the benefit of the student and the taxpayer?

c) How much in new state funding has been made available for matching need-based student grants since the initiation of the Special LEAP(SLEAP) component in the 1998 HEA reauthorization?

d.) Are there perceived deficiencies in the program's purpose and the achievement of that purpose? If so, how can they be addressed? What improvements should be made to the program, in terms of funding levels, administrative practices, program awareness, and student impact, to improve its effectiveness?

### **Bid Submission**

Bidders will submit a double-spaced response, no more than five pages, supplemented by resumes of project personnel with a description of related research experience of each, with the project lead person identified. The total response must not exceed 12 pages.

Responses must be transmitted electronically to Cheryl Maplethorpe, NASSGAP Research Chair ([cheryl.maplethorpe@state.mn.us](mailto:cheryl.maplethorpe@state.mn.us)) and no later than 4:30 P.M. central time July 14, 2006. Selection will be made based on factors reflecting the analytical comprehensiveness in addressing the required report content and the relevant experience of the research team.

Questions can be sent by e-mail to Cheryl Maplethorpe, between the dates of June 12, 2006 through June 30, 2006. All questions and answers will be posted to [www.nassgap.org](http://www.nassgap.org) as they are received and answered but no later than July 5, 2006.

Contact information for Cheryl Maplethorpe is:

Director of Financial Aid Division

Office of Higher Education

1450 Energy Park Dr. suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55108

[cheryl.maplethorpe@state.mn.us](mailto:cheryl.maplethorpe@state.mn.us)

phone 1-800-657-3866 EX 3400

The funding limit for this project is \$3,500.

All bids, reports and supporting data and documentation are the sole property of NASSGAP.