

Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program

Purpose:

To make Federal grants available to States to provide:

- (1) grants to eligible students attending institutions of higher education;
- (2) awards to eligible students for campus-based community service work-study; and
- (3) early aid estimates and college information through partnerships with colleges and private organizations.

Issue:

Additional Federal funding is needed for the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program to attract new State funds for need-based student grants. **A \$200 million Federal funding level is being recommended** by the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP). This program facilitates State use of the FAFSA to enable families to access Federal and State financial aid programs through this single application form.

LEAP requires the highest levels of matching funds of all the federal HEA Title IV student financial aid programs because States must match federal at least dollar-for-dollar.

The new **Grants for Access and Persistence (GAP)** component of LEAP will raise the Federal funding share up to 66% to support high-need students.

LEAP generates substantial matching State spending for need-based student grants.

LEAP will support expansions of early awareness programs.

LEAP increases State matching funds.

LEAP funds improve student persistence and retention.

More than 53 percent of basic LEAP grant recipients in 2007-2008 had family incomes below \$20,000.

Produced by the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP);

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