



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

**Oregon Student Access Commission**

1500 Valley River Dr. Suite 100, Eugene, OR 97401  
(800) 452-8807 and (541) 687-7400; Fax: (541) 687-7414  
[www.OregonStudentAid.gov](http://www.OregonStudentAid.gov)

March 14, 2013

Senator Rod Monroe and Representative Betty Komp, Co-Chairs  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Follow-up to questions asked on March 18, 2013

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

As requested, I've prepared responses to a number of questions from Monday's public hearing on the OSAC budget. The responses roughly follow the order that they occurred in the meeting. I have paraphrased the question, and my response follows.

**Rep. Komp:** Regarding the Child Care Grant, what is the ratio of male to female applicants?

**Answer:** It depends on the pool of applicants, but generally 10-15% are men, and the balance are women.

**Sen. Monroe:** How is the Child Care Grant paid out? Is it a reimbursement grant?

**Answer:** Contrary to what I stated in the meeting, it is not a reimbursement grant. Child Care Grants are based on a calculation that includes expected monthly cost of care compared to a maximum rate table and yearly maximum award. OSAC sends a disbursement for either one half or one third of the total award at the beginning of each semester or quarter, fall through spring. OSAC sends disbursements to the school, not the child care provider or the student. It is up to the recipient to use the disbursement as payment to cover or partially cover their child care expenses for the entire academic period after the school applies it to their student account for refund.

**Rep. Komp:** How do you obtain feedback from participants in the Private Scholarship program regarding the timeliness of the awards, the impact of the scholarship on their lives, and so on?

**Answer:** I verified with my staff that we have not specifically solicited feedback from scholarship recipients, since so much of the process timeline and award amounts rest in the hands of the donors

and selection committees. In retrospect, however, I can see how this information could be very valuable to our staff and to our donors, so I will discuss with our scholarship team putting a plan in place to collect this information in the future.

**Rep. Komp:** How much was spent on development of the new scholarship application? How much are your ongoing costs?

**Answer:** I re-checked my figures this afternoon and the new scholarship application cost OSAC approximately \$73,000 from August through the end of January. Completion of the application will happen in March, but I do not think that total costs will increase by more than \$10,000. The only ongoing costs specific to the application are associated with the rental of space at the University of Oregon for a dedicated server, and a firewall related to that server. These two items total about \$100 per month. All together, the cost of the new scholarship application is about one half of one percent of the amount of scholarships we anticipate awarding this year.

**Sen. Monroe:** How do private universities compare to OUS universities with eligibility for scholarships?

**Answer:** Approximately half of the 450+ scholarship programs that OSAC manages can be used at both public and private non-profit schools. Approximately the other half of the scholarships can be used at any Title IV Eligible School, which includes public colleges and universities, private non-profit colleges and universities, and for-profit colleges and universities. Out of the 450+ funds, 20 are limited to public colleges, and one is limited to private colleges.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant can be used at any Oregon public college or university. The grant can also be used at any non-profit college or university housed and headquartered in Oregon. Currently 18 colleges and universities qualify for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. They are:

- Birthingway College of Midwifery
- Concordia University
- Corban University
- George Fox University
- Lewis & Clark College
- Linfield College
- Linfield College – Portland
- Marylhurst University
- Mount Angel Seminary
- Northwest Christian University
- Oregon College of Art & Craft
- Pacific NW College of Art
- Pacific University
- Reed College
- University of Portland
- University of Western States
- Warner Pacific College
- Willamette University

**Sen. Sprenger:** Other than the loss of stipend funds (partnership grants), why do schools discontinue participating in ASPIRE?

**Answer:** When schools indicate they want to discontinue their partnership with ASPIRE, we ask some follow-up questions, the most significant of which is “why?” In no particular order, these are the most common answers that we have received:

- a. Change in administration – new administrator want to do a different program.  
Think that they can do it without us after they learn how the program works
- c. Change in staffing – coordinator leaves and site can’t find a replacement
- d. Challenge in finding volunteers
- e. Staff who submitted the grant application and believed in the program leaves the site and hadn’t passed on their passion to another staff member
- f. Site has lack of commitment for after high school planning and only focuses on 9-12 grade completion
- g. Can’t afford to pay a coordinator

I believe I have captured all of the questions that I was not able to address in the meeting (hearing?). If I have missed anything, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Bob Brew  
Interim Executive Director