INTRODUCTION.

In an effort to continue outreach and education efforts aimed at assisting student-athletes and families on their path to academic and athletic success, the NCAA Eligibility Center is continuing the NCAA “Get the Word Out” grant program. The programs focus is centered on assisting high schools and/or school districts in delivering the message of academic preparedness to their college-bound student-athletes. With increased academic standards for NCAA Divisions I and II the need exists for discussion of the standards, as well as the wide variety of opportunities at over 1,100 NCAA colleges and universities to students and their families.

PURPOSE.

To increase the knowledge and awareness of college-bound student-athletes and families, communicating the NCAA Divisions I and II academic standards, stressing that academic success throughout all four years of high school is imperative to meet the NCAA initial-eligibility standards. Also ensuring that students are informed of the limitless academic and athletic possibilities available at NCAA Division I, II and III colleges and universities across the country.

GRANT ELIGIBLE DISTRICTS.

Eligible high schools and/or districts will be those that demonstrate need and have an achievable plan for using the funds to effectively educate student-athletes and their families.

GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED.

A total amount of $40,000 has been allocated for the grant program. High schools and/or districts will be eligible to receive not more than $4,000 for the 2016-2017 academic year. This grant is designed as a one-time allocation of funds. Also, grant funds cannot be used for the hiring of support staff or outside contractors.

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS AFFECTED.

Considering the various amounts of grant funds being requested and awarded, the NCAA would like to assist as many high schools and districts as possible.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS.

Eligible high schools and/or districts are required to submit the grant application electronically, which includes: 1) name of high school/district; 2) primary and secondary contacts, including contact information; 3) amount of funding requested; 4) a description of the program they wish to implement; 5) the goals/objectives; 6) itemized budget of planned expenditures; 7) key measures of success; 8) and a W-9 statement. The W-9 statement is utilized for NCAA tax purposes for grant funding, as well as determining the remittance address for dispersing grant funds.

GRANT SELECTION PROCESS.

Grant recipients will be selected by a committee made up of representatives from the NCAA High School Advisory Group, and a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations. A nonvoting member of the NCAA staff will serve as the selection committee chair.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN AWARDING GRANT.

The grant program selection committee will consider several criteria including, but not limited to: 1) the detailed plan and goals identified by the high school and/or district; 2) the number of registrants the high school and/or district has with the NCAA Eligibility Center; 3) the percentage of the high school and/or district’s student population that receives free or reduced lunch; and 4) the ability for the high school and/or district to meet the desired outcomes.
ACCOUNTABILITY. High schools and/or districts that have been awarded grant funding will be required to submit a proof of plan implementation, as well as a summary report on key measures identified in their initial proposal. Members of the NCAA staff may travel to respective high schools and/or districts to review the activities that have been implemented; document the success that the program has provided; discuss ways to improve the program as well as consider additional ways to assist high school communities.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 19, 2016</td>
<td>Application period opens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7, 2016</td>
<td>Grant application deadline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7, 2016</td>
<td>Grant recipients notified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2, 2016</td>
<td>Grant payment disbursed.</td>
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IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.

May 6, 2017 Post program assessment due.

EXPECTED GRANT OUTCOMES. Successful allocation of funded initiatives that support the education and academic success of college-bound student-athletes by showing an increase in awareness of the NCAA academic standards and increased knowledge of colleges and universities within the NCAA’s three divisions.

APPLICATION PROCESS. To apply, proceed to the NCAA Program Hub login, and create a profile. Once a profile is created, you may apply for the “Get the Word Out” grant. Only applications that have been fully completed and submitted will be considered for grant funding.