

for school administrators on issues affecting the financial aid community

# accessupdate



## Access Group Receives Funds Through Department of Education's Loan Participation Program

We are pleased to announce that Access Group has successfully completed its initial request to the Department of Education and has received funds through the new Loan Participation Program. These funds and our participation in the DOE program provide Access Group with short-term liquidity and help ensure we can make federal loans for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Access Group is one of the first lenders to participate in this new program. With this funding, the company can continue to meet its mission, providing access to education, during a time of industry difficulties.

Authorized under the "Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008," this program provides improved liquidity and availability of federal student loans during this time of continuing unrest in the financial markets. The Department of Education reports that it has distributed more than \$1.7 billion in just 12 days under the program.

## Changes in Forbearance Policy Simplify Process for Access Group Borrowers

Access Group is pleased to announce changes to our forbearance policy for federal and private student loans, effective August 11, 2008. These changes simplify the process and reduce the amount of documentation required to obtain some types of forbearance.

For example, borrowers of Federal Stafford and PLUS loans now can request certain forbearances by phone instead of submitting signed paper documents. Private loan borrowers also can request in-school forbearance or economic hardship forbearance by phone instead of having to complete and submit a request form.

In other changes to private loan forbearance requests:

- Borrowers can now submit less documentation to qualify for economic hardship forbearance eligibility.
- Borrowers requesting a private loan residency forbearance do not have to complete a separate form if they've submitted a deferment/forbearance request on their FFELP loans with us.

Your students will be informed of these options when they request these forbearances, either online or by calling us. If you have any questions, please contact your internal account executive.

## Access Group Announces Winner of "One Less Worry" Law Scholarship Contest

The public has voted and chosen a winner! Steven Luther from Washington University School of Law is the \$10,000 grand prize winner of our "One Less Worry" Law School Scholarship Contest.

In addition, we awarded honorable mention scholarships of \$1,500 to five finalists. Access Group judges scored these videos the highest in each of the following categories (with the limitation of one prize per person):

- **Creativity** – Michael Leonard, University of Chicago Law School
- **Humor** – Jordan Kirshner, Hofstra University School of Law
- **Quality** – Adam Friedman, University of Dayton School of Law
- **Realism** – Barron Oda, University of Hawaii at Manoa - William S. Richardson School of Law
- **Appeal** – Andrew Lichtenstein, Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University

The winning video and those of the ten finalists can be viewed at:

[www.youtube.com/OneLessWorry](http://www.youtube.com/OneLessWorry)

# Register Today! Access Group Extends Early Bird Registration Deadline for 2008 Conference



**Thursday, November 20 through Saturday, November 22, 2008**

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort  
Chandler, Arizona

## Early Bird Registration Deadline Extended to October 1

Good news! Access Group is extending the Early Bird registration deadline for the 2008 Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference to Wednesday, October 1, 2008. That means you have a few more weeks to register for this exciting three-day event for only \$550.

This extended deadline also gives you more time to decide on the great sessions you want to attend, get your questions ready to share at the discipline-specific sessions, and consider where to eat during your free time on Friday evening.

Register today at [www.accessgroup.org/conf2008](http://www.accessgroup.org/conf2008)

To help you cut your costs when making your travel arrangements, check out the following Web sites:

[www.Travelzoo.com](http://www.Travelzoo.com)

[www.bookingbuddy.com](http://www.bookingbuddy.com)

[www.Lowfares.com](http://www.Lowfares.com)

[Farecast.live.com](http://Farecast.live.com)

We look forward to seeing you in Arizona!



## CampusDoor® Contact Information

CampusDoor® has recently realigned staff to more effectively service their customers and maintain third-party relationships. They will continue to fully service your needs at the numbers listed and remain committed to funding all approved applications.

**Please note revised hours of operation.**

**For Financial Aid Offices – 866-912-3326**

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

**CampusDoor Lender Code:** 999444

**CampusDoor Loan Program Codes:**

B01 (Undergrad), B02 (Grad)

**Private Guarantor Code:** C01

**Help Tools and User Guides for School Administrators:**

[The Application Training Guide](http://ccc.campusdoor.com) is offered in the Campus Connection Center at <http://ccc.campusdoor.com>.

**For Access Group Borrowers – 866-930-1543**

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

**Help Tools and User Guides for Borrowers**

[www.campusdoor.com](http://www.campusdoor.com)

## Coming in October! Selecting a Loan Repayment Plan Webinar

Borrowers who will be entering repayment of their federal loans this fall will be invited to participate in a Webinar presented by Jeff Hanson, Access Group's director of borrower education services. As part of our on-going WiseBorrower® education programming, this 90-minute presentation will provide information to help borrowers decide which repayment plan is best for them. And, participants can submit questions to be answered during the presentation.

### **"How to Pick Your Loan Repayment Plan"**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. ET**

**Borrowers can register for this Webinar at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org).**

"Loan repayment has become more flexible with the addition of Income-Based Repayment and the new public service loan forgiveness program, but with that flexibility comes added complexity," says Hanson. "We are offering this Webinar to help our borrowers manage the process of selecting the plan that will best meet their needs."

This Webinar also will be recorded for borrowers unable to attend or those who want to listen to it again.

### **Need Access® Financial Aid Service**

Need analysis service  
for graduate and  
professional schools



### **Registration for Need Access® 2009-2010 Is Open!**

The Need Access registration process for 2009-2010 is now open. Participating schools can use Need Access to assess financial need and award institutional funds. Registration for 2009-2010 closes on November 1, 2008.

Students can complete their applications online at [NeedAccess.Org](http://NeedAccess.Org) and request to have their application information sent to as many as 16 schools. Student fees for 2009-2010 will be as follows:

- First-time Need Access applicants: A fixed fee of \$28, with an unlimited number of school applications, revisions and resubmits
- Renewing Need Access applicants: A fixed fee of \$15, with an unlimited number of school applications, revisions and resubmits

If your institution would like to pay processing fees on behalf of your students, please contact your internal account executive for more information.

Not yet a Need Access participant? Join the growing number of schools using Need Access to streamline their need analysis process! For information on how to register your school, call the Need Access Help Line at 800-282-1550, ext. 6876.

## eAccess Tip of the Month

### Get the student information you need!

There are many ways to search for student information in eAccess. Each search produces a results grid that will appear on the page below the search parameters box. Here are some tips to help you better navigate and use the results grid:

- Sort by a particular piece of data by clicking any of the column headers.
- Look for a particular student in a list of records by typing the SSN in the input box above the results column headers. If found, that loan record is sorted to the top of the list.
- Select or deselect all records at once by clicking the "Select All, Deselect All" hyperlink above the column headers of the search results grid.

### **Access Group, Inc.**

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### **Toll-free lines:**

**School Services**  
800-227-2151  
800-449-8204 (fax)

**Customer Contact Center**  
800-282-1550

***AccessGroup.Org***  
***NeedAccess.Org***

**Access Group**  
**Federal Stafford Loans**  
**Federal PLUS Loans**  
**Lender Code: 808851**

*To subscribe to this newsletter, e-mail your name and your school's name to your internal account executive or to [schoolservices@accessgroup.org](mailto:schoolservices@accessgroup.org).*

  
*The nonprofit graduate loan specialist*