

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Service Agreement for ISIR Verification Services

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve a Service Agreement with the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) for an amount up to \$438,086 for the provision of services related to the matching and verification of “Institutional Student Information Records” (ISIR) and “SARC C Code Resolution” for those ISIRs that are unable to be verified.

Background: The Financial Aid Simplification initiative seeks to facilitate operational efficiencies that enhance student-customer services, save college resources, and ensure accurate verification of financial aid records. A goal of financial aid simplification is to assist administrators, the college, students, and their families by freeing them from time-consuming “policing and processing” responsibilities, to enable first-generation and non-traditional students access to education through financial assistance. This can be accomplished by contracting out document processing and ISIR records verification to obtain “ready to package” records; and, by providing student contact and consultation for problematic records resolution, ultimately leading to improved operational efficiencies, and improved college responsiveness and student-customer service.

Rationale: The services provided by and through NCSEAA will enhance a community college’s ability to process student financial aid – whether it is a Federal Pell Grant, a William D. Ford Federal Loan, State-funded grants, individual institutional resources (foundation, scholarships, grants, etc.), or a combination of these types of student financial aid, in a manner that is more accurate and efficient.

College participation is strictly voluntary. The following colleges have requested to participate and will be included in the service agreement:

- College of the Albemarle
- Craven Community College
- Davidson County Community College
- Gaston Community College
- Johnston Community College
- Piedmont Community College
- Robeson Community College
- Stanly Community College
- Wake Technical Community College

Three additional colleges have expressed interest in participating.

This cost of this contract is based on the following unit pricing:

- \$21 per ISIR file submitted for verification;
- \$3 per C-Flag record submitted for resolution; and
- \$3,000 per newly participating college for initial start-up costs.
- Contract also includes pricing for additional college requested services.

Participating colleges must commit to submitting at least 300 ISIRs for verification or 85% of the applications selected for verification by the Department of Education, whichever is lower. This requirement is necessary to ensure fixed costs of providing this service are recovered, while keeping unit pricing at the same rates as last year.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the practice of the State of North Carolina, there is no requirement for competition or approval by outside purchasing authorities for contracts between state agencies.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The time period of the Service Agreement will run from January 1, 2015 – July 15, 2016. The scope of this service agreement covers financial aid records associated with the 2015-16 award year only.

Fund Source and Availability: The System Office will pay for the start-up fee for newly participating colleges from Systemwide Project funds. The System Office will invoice participating colleges quarterly for their portion of the services rendered. Colleges typically use State funds to pay those invoices.

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