

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Matching college money available to Colorado families who apply by May 31

This year's deadline looms to apply for Collegenest Matching Grant Program

[Collegenest](#), a not-for-profit division of the [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#), is helping families maximize college savings during this tough economy with its annual Matching Grant Program.

But the deadline to apply is May 31, so families need to act fast to take advantage of the program.

Collegenest will match every dollar that qualifying middle- to lower-income Colorado families contribute to Collegenest 529 college savings plans in 2010 with another dollar, up to \$500 in a year, subject to the availability of funds.

Colorado families that apply by May 31 may qualify for up to five years of matching funds from the program. That means they have the opportunity to increase their higher education savings by as much as \$2,500.

"As tuition continues to rise and families struggle with a challenging economy, this program helps Colorado families make their dollars go further," said Angela Baier, chief marketing officer of Collegenest. "It's critical that families turn in their applications by the deadline so that they can start stretching their savings now."

Collegenest offers the only college savings plans that combine federal tax advantages with a Colorado income tax deduction for all contributions. Money saved through these 529 plans can be used nationwide at any eligible public or private college, university or vocational school.

Here is what Colorado families need to know about the Matching Grants Program:

- To qualify for the program, families must meet household income requirements.
- Qualifying families must complete an application and submit it to Collegenest for preapproval by May 31.
- Contributions can be made to a new or existing Collegenest account for a child 12 or younger who can be claimed as a dependent for tax purposes.
- The matching grant will be awarded up to \$500 per child (subject to availability of funds) for contributions made in 2010.
- Complete income qualification and guidelines can be found online at www.collegenest.org/matchinggrant or by calling 800.478.5651.

"The Matching Grant Program is just one of the many resources that Collegenest offers to help Colorado families make their college dreams a reality," said Baier. "Every dollar saved brings them one step closer to college."

About CollegenInvest

CollegenInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegenInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, [college savings plans](#), and scholarships. For more information, visit www.collegeninvest.org or call 1-800-448-2424 or contact your financial advisor.

Important Considerations

To learn about CollegenInvest's 529 program, its objectives, risks, charges, limitations, restrictions and qualifications regarding the Plans' benefits and potential tax advantages, please read the Program Disclosure Statements (PDS) available at www.collegeninvest.org. Also, check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits for investing in its own plan. Administered and Issued by CollegenInvest.

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