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## **Grant Program Announcement: 2014 Texas Financial Education Endowment (TFEE)**

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Austin, Texas - The Finance Commission of Texas announces the availability of \$250,000 in grant funds from the Texas Financial Education Endowment "TFEE". This grant program is designed to support and promote financial capability, education, and responsibility of Texans. The endowment supports innovative consumer credit building activities and programs for youth and adults throughout the state.

The Endowment Fund was created by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature in conjunction with the legislation that established a regulatory program for Credit Access Businesses. Each Credit Access Business, a financial service provider that facilitates payday and auto title loans, is required to pay an annual assessment to the endowment fund to sustain the financial capability and education programs. Leslie Pettijohn, Consumer Credit Commissioner states: "Texas is fortunate to have an opportunity such as this to support innovative financial capability and education programs that enhance the personal wellbeing and responsibility of Texans, which in turn supports economic growth in our state."

Schools, governmental agencies, profit and not-for-profit organizations will be eligible for grant awards through a competitive application and review process. Applications for funding consideration will be accepted between September 4, 2013 and October 15, 2013. Grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$40,000.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to participate in an interactive and informational webinar on September 12. More information about the grant program including program guidelines, application submission, and webinar registration, can be found at [www.tfee.texas.gov](http://www.tfee.texas.gov).

The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (OCCC) is a state agency with wide financial regulatory responsibilities, including the regulation of over 3,500 payday and auto title locations in the state. As a financial regulatory agency, the OCCC's primary responsibility is the licensing and examination of financial service providers, which offers protection to consumers. The OCCC also coordinates financial education efforts aimed at consumers and industry alike and directs financial service providers on compliance issues.