

June 1, 2009

Pursuant to Idaho license law, civil penalty fine money can be used only for development and delivery of real estate education to benefit Idaho licensees. Four years ago, the Commission obtained legislative spending authority for \$95,000 per year of the fine money. To get started utilizing these funds, the Commission established an Education Fund Awards program.

For the last couple of years, our Commissioners have considered and approved applications for courses and educational projects under this program. This approach worked well at the outset because it helped the Commission identify needs and methods to reach the greatest number of licensees. However, the program has become extremely labor intensive and time consuming for staff to administer. Also, the Real Estate Commission is a state agency and we are required to adhere to state purchasing laws and rules. It has been difficult to ensure strict compliance with these requirements under the award system.

After careful consideration, the Commission will take a different approach for fine money expenditures for the 2010 fiscal year. At their May 21, 2009 meeting, the Commissioners approved a list of education programs for the entire fiscal year to be paid for with fine money, as follows:

- Free core classes around the state (top Commission priority)
- Free or reduced cost broker prelicense classes around the state
- Postcard mailings with schedules of free and reduced cost courses
- Training video on presenting the Agency Disclosure Brochure
- Printing and mailing of the *Real Estatement* newsletter
- Education Council honorariums
- Staff travel to out of area commission meetings

Funds to deliver the free and reduced cost classes will be awarded to one or more applicants through the state's purchasing process. The process will be open to everyone, and more information will be available in July 2009.

Unfortunately, this means the Commission will not accept individual applications for fiscal year 2010 Education Fund Awards at this time. (If you have already submitted a funding request for the next fiscal year, it is being returned to you with this letter.) Depending on availability of funds, the Commission may reopen the application process for individual Education Fund Awards later on in the year.

Thank you for your understanding and courtesy in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Jackson-Heim
Executive Director