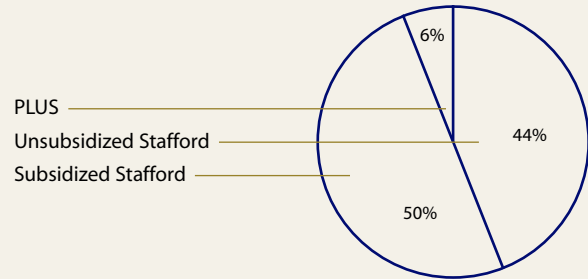


**USA Funds' Mississippi Loan Volume**

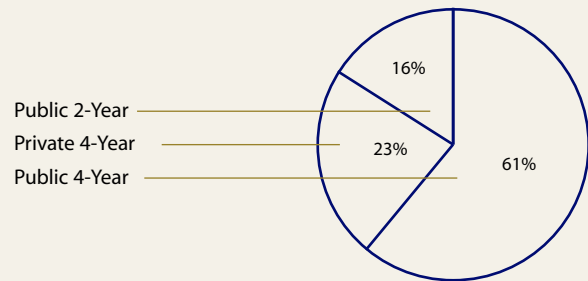
By Loan Type



USA Funds® is the nation's leading education-loan guarantor. A nonprofit corporation, USA Funds works to enhance postsecondary-education preparedness, access and success by providing and supporting financial and other valued services.

**USA Funds' Mississippi Loan Volume**

By Institution Type



[www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org)



**USA Funds® has served Mississippi as its designated guarantor of federal student loans since 1994. In its efforts to enhance higher-education preparedness, access and success, USA Funds partners with schools, lenders, students, parents and community organizations.**

During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2007, USA Funds guaranteed more than \$324.5 million in new education loans to more than 40,500 Mississippi borrowers — including Federal Stafford loans for nearly 38,500 students and Federal PLUS loans for more than 2,000 parents and students. USA Funds served 33 postsecondary institutions in Mississippi.

USA Funds works with Mississippi schools and lenders to help reduce student-loan-default rates. The most-recent default measure, the 2005 cohort-default rate, was 2.59 percent for Mississippi borrowers with USA Funds-guaranteed loans, compared with the default rate of 2.7 percent recorded among all Mississippi student-loan borrowers. The cohort-default rate measures the percentage of students who entered repayment on their education loans during a given federal fiscal year and defaulted on their loans prior to the end of the following fiscal year.

**Debt-management initiatives**

To partner with postsecondary institutions in their debt-management efforts, USA Funds in 2007 provided a broad spectrum of services in Mississippi, including the following:

- ◇ USA Funds' debt-management consultants assisted 24 Mississippi schools in their work to curb student-loan defaults.
- ◇ To equip postsecondary institutions to teach their students to manage their time and money wisely while they are on campus and after graduation, USA Funds offers the USA Funds Life Skills® financial-literacy course. Approximately 21 schools in Mississippi have implemented USA Funds Life Skills, with seven schools ordering materials in 2007.

◇ Ten schools in Mississippi use USA Funds Debt Manager®, a Web-based tool that helps them stay in contact with student-loan borrowers during school and after graduation. USA Funds Debt Manager assists with e-mail, call or letter campaigns to borrowers experiencing repayment difficulties.

◇ USA Funds Loan Counselor® is a suite of custom counseling products that helps schools fulfill all federal requirements for loan counseling and simplifies Stafford-loan entrance and exit counseling with one online program.

◇ To give schools greater flexibility as they help students track their education loans, USA Funds supports the Borrower Debt Management Information Service. Schools often use the service during student-loan exit counseling with borrowers.

◇ USA Funds conducted two debt-management workshops in Mississippi to help schools learn more about USA Funds Life Skills, and about student retention and its role in default prevention. Fifty-five higher-education professionals and student counselors took part in workshops at Rust College.

USA Funds also supports a variety of other programs for Mississippi schools, lenders, students and families, and their communities. The following are some highlights from 2007:

### **Mississippi advisory council**

To ensure that its services meet the needs of postsecondary education in Mississippi, USA Funds receives guidance from a Mississippi financial-aid advisory council. The council includes financial-aid administrators from Mississippi colleges and universities, as well as representatives of lending institutions and officials of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid.

### **Staff-training opportunities**

USA Funds helps colleges and lenders comply with program regulations and keeps them informed of policy developments and improved services through a wide array of training opportunities, including free workshops in Mississippi. During fiscal 2007 USA Funds conducted six financial-aid workshops — in Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford and Tupelo — for 190 participants. Additionally, financial-aid administrators from four Mississippi postsecondary-school campuses took advantage of USA Funds University online-learning courses during 2007, with 17 learner sessions recorded.

### **Scholarship funding**

The USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships® program awarded 364 new and renewal scholarships totaling \$537,000 to deserving college-bound students in Mississippi for the 2007-2008 academic year. Awards to Mississippi students through the program total \$2.7 million in the last six years alone. These scholarships assist students in financial need — particularly those who are either members of ethnic-minority groups or are physically disabled — as they finance their higher education.

Under the USA Funds Scholars program, USA Funds awarded \$19,500 in scholarships to 13 graduating seniors from five Mississippi high schools. USA Funds Scholars are outstanding students in USA Funds' designated states and in communities in which USA Funds has offices.

### **Early awareness programs**

In late 2007 USA Funds introduced USA Funds Consejos, a program designed to encourage Latino middle-school students and their families to prepare for and pursue higher education. USA Funds Consejos provides Latino students and their families more-complete information about the value of postsecondary education, the education options available to them, and the availability of financial aid.

Three Mississippi schools and organizations took advantage of USA Funds Unlock the Future®, which introduces students and their families to the benefits of and options for education after high school.

Mississippi schools and community- and faith-based organizations may order these early awareness-program materials at no cost.

### **College-planning Web sites**

Online college-planning resources supported by USA Funds — including those on USA Funds' Web site, [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org) — received approximately 50,000 visits in 2007. Through these resources USA Funds offers college-planning information specific to Mississippi.

### **Learning Communities**

USA Funds continued its work with a coalition of organizations that are focusing services on six pilot communities — including Okolona School District in Okolona — in a bid to improve access to postsecondary education for low-income students. The Learning Communities Coalition is partnering with local leaders across the nation to significantly increase the number of youths in the selected communities who complete high school and successfully pursue postsecondary education.

A grant of nearly \$153,000 from USA Funds in 2007 supported Okolona's Learning Communities activities — such as the delivery of USA Funds Unlock the Future — that bolster college readiness and access.

### **College-preparation publications and events**

USA Funds for the fifth-consecutive year was a sponsor of *Mississippi Next* magazine. Distributed to high-school juniors and seniors, the publication outlines postsecondary-education and career opportunities. As part of its sponsorship of *Mississippi Next* magazine, USA Funds again committed to fund a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating Mississippi high-school senior for use at any Mississippi postsecondary-education institution.

Additionally, USA Funds provided funding and staff support for regional college fairs conducted by *Parents & Kids* magazine, as well as a *Parents & Kids* college planner. Approximately 9,000 students attended the college fairs.

### **School supplies for an elementary school**

USA Funds and its employees donated \$1,113 to Okolona Elementary School, a school affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The donations funded the purchase of school supplies.

## **25 Largest Mississippi Schools**

*By Loan Volume*

*Served by USA Funds*

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Jackson State University  
Mississippi Valley State University  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Mississippi State University  
Mississippi College  
University of Mississippi  
Belhaven College  
Mississippi College School of Law  
Holmes Community College  
Hinds Community College  
Mississippi University for Women  
East Mississippi Community College  
William Carey University  
Tougaloo College  
Pearl River Community College  
Northwest Mississippi Community College  
Delta State University  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College  
Rust College  
East Central Community College  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Virginia College Gulf Coast  
Northeast Mississippi Community College  
Jones County Junior College  
Virginia College at Jackson

## **10 Largest Lenders**

*By Loan Volume*

*Served by USA Funds in Mississippi*

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Regions Bank  
Sallie Mae Education Trust  
Education Services Foundation  
J.P. Morgan Chase  
Student Loan Xpress  
Trustmark Bank  
Bancorp South  
Wachovia Education Finance  
Citibank Student Loans  
Cadence Bank