

# Consumer **ALERT**



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## “GOVERNMENT GRANT” IS A SCAM

My office has received reports of telemarketers who pose as government officials offering “grants” –free money for educational expenses. Please be aware that there is no legitimate local, state, or federal government program of this kind. Just hang up.

Federal assistance for educational expenses such as college tuition generally takes the form of student loans. Read about real opportunities available through the US Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/students/landing.jhtml?src=fp>. In any case, government assistance is only available through an application process. Be assured that real government agents do not call people in their homes and offer money.

The dead giveaway to a scam is the fact that the scammer holds out an offer of money – and then asks you to part with some of yours. People who receive government assistance **DO NOT PAY MONEY UP FRONT**. And that is my advice to you: **DO NOT PAY MONEY UP FRONT** to anyone who calls you at home. You will lose it.

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