Financial Resources Available to Youth in Care for Post-Secondary Education

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overview

- What is Financial Aid?
- Financial Aid through FAFSA
- Financial Aid from DCFS Programs
- Helpful Links/Resources
What is Financial Aid?

- **Financial Aid**
  - Given, earned, or borrowed money to pay for college

- **Students primarily responsible for funding education**
  - Financial aid helps fill gap between funding the student has and total cost of attendance
What is Financial Aid?

- Gift Aid
  - Grants- Need-based aid
  - Scholarships- Merit, athletics, extracurricular activities, etc.

- Self-Help Aid
  - Work-study- Money earned from need-based employment
  - Loans- Borrowed money that must be repaid
What is Financial Aid?

IT ALL STARTS WITH... FAFSA

START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID
FAFSA Overview

What is the FAFSA?
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Filing it determines how much financial aid a student is eligible to receive
- It is used by schools to determine federal, state and institutional aid.

Where can you find the application?
- https://fafsa.ed.gov
FAFSA Application Period

- January 1, 2016: Students submit FAFSA to secure funding for 2016-2017 school year
- October 1, 2016: Students submit FAFSA to secure funding for 2017-2018 school year
- October 1 of every year after this to secure funding for future years.
Information Needed Prior to Filing FAFSA

- All students filing a FAFSA application are required to have a valid social security number.
- If the student is not a U.S. Citizen or Naturalized Citizen, he/she will need to provide proof of legal permanent resident card or proof of asylum at the time they file their FAFSA application (need to add info about the other exceptions).
- Students under the DACA program are not considered eligible for FAFSA.
- Students working and filing income tax will need to provide income information.
- Students do not need to have filed their taxes for the year in order to complete their FAFSA.
- Once the taxes are filed, students can retrieve that information directly from the IRS Data Retrieval Tool; which is available directly through FAFSA application.
Federal Student Aid (FSA ID)

- Applicants are now required to create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and a password in order to log in to their FAFSA.
  - All new applicants will have their social security numbers verified with the Social Security Administration.
  - This verification process might take up to 3 days.
  - When filing FAFSA and FSA ID, students MUST use their name as shown on their social security card.
- If a student previously used a PIN number, the student is required to also create a FSA ID and password as well.
  - There is a section on the FSA ID process where any student who had a PIN number before will need to add that PIN number there.
  - By sharing the PIN number during the FSA ID process, student will be verified automatically.
Welcome, Dependent Data!

We did not find a 2016-2017 application on file for you.

To receive student financial aid, you need to fill out a FAFSA every school year. Are you attending college between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017? If so, fill out the 2016-2017 FAFSA.

START 2016-2017 FAFSA

FSA ID

FSA ID Status:
User Account Management
You can use your FSA ID to sign your FAFSA electronically or make corrections to your FAFSA.
Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?

- Yes
- No

Select Yes if you have received federal student grants, Federal Work-study, or federal student loans.

Select No if you have never attended college. Also select No if you have never received federal student grants, Federal Work-study, or federal student loans.
At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Yes  
- No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Yes  
- No

Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Yes  
- No

On or after July 1, 2015, were you homeless or were you self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- Yes  
- No
Get My Federal Income Tax Information

See our Privacy Notice regarding our request for your personal information.

Enter the following information from your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return.

Required fields *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name</td>
<td>Dependent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Number</td>
<td>*** - ** - 2581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>01 / 01 / 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filing Status</td>
<td>Single</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street Address</td>
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<td>P.O. Box (Required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apt. Number (Required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>City, Town or Postbox</td>
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<tr>
<td>State/U.S. Territory</td>
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<td>ZIP Code</td>
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By submitting this information, you certify that you are the person identified. Use of this system to access another person’s information may result in civil and criminal penalties.
# Student 2015 Federal Income Tax Information

The information below is your tax information that will help you answer some of the questions on the FAFSA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Tax Information</th>
<th>FAFSA Question Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax Year</strong></td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name(s)</strong></td>
<td>Dependent Data</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Security Number</strong></td>
<td>***** - ** - 2581**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Filing Status</strong></td>
<td>Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Tax Return Filed</strong></td>
<td><strong>1040EZ</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adjusted Gross Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,750</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Income Earned From Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,125</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Income Tax</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IRS Exemptions</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

![Print this page for your records before choosing an option below.](image)

**Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA?**

- The tax information provided above will populate the answers to the appropriate FAFSA questions. After the FAFSA is populated your IRS session will end and you will return to your FAFSA. Check this box if you are choosing to transfer your information.

**Do Not Transfer My Tax Information and Return to the FAFSA?**

- By clicking the “Do Not Transfer” button, you are choosing not to transfer your tax information electronically. Your IRS session will end and you will return to your FAFSA. You may still use this tax information to input the data into your FAFSA.
Maintaining Funding

- Must submit FAFSA annually
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Have a 67% completion rate every semester plus maintain “C” average to continue receiving financial aid
- Federal PELL Grant (Up to $5,775 per school year) based on a maximum of 12 credit hours per semester (check with school)
- IL Monetary Award Program (MAP) (Up to $4,720 per school year based on the school cost of attendance) Grant based on a maximum of 15 credit hours per semester (check with school)
- Work-Study program available on a first come first serve basis.
Practice Website for FAFSA Application

- The FAFSA practice demo site allows you to practice prior to working on the actual application.

- To access the sites, go to http://fafsademo.test.ed.gov
- Enter:
  - User Name: eddemo
  - Password: fafsatest

This information will not transfer automatically to the actual FAFSA. Students must still apply at FAFSA.GOV
Scholarship Opportunities

- High School seniors and current college students have a broad variety of scholarships they can apply for in addition to the DCFS scholarship
  - Trusted search engines such as fastweb.com, scholarships.com and especially the Illinois Student Assistance Commission studentportal.isac.org, offer a scholarship database.
  - Students may also browse the scholarship website at the projected college/university they or are planning to attend.
Funding Available Through DCFS Post Secondary Programs

Getting There!
Types of Funding Available for DCFS Youth

- DCFS related assistance
  - Youth in College/ Vocational Training (YIC/VT)
  - Youth in Scholarship (YIS)
  - Education & Training Voucher (ETV)
  - Community College Payment Program (CCPP)
Youth in College/Vocational Training Program

- Monthly stipend of $511 up to 4 years or semester of 23rd birthday.
- Medical Card until age 21
- Reimbursement for books not covered by financial aid grants.
- One time startup funding of $200 to be used for living expenses.
- Attend a post-secondary school listed as accredited by the US Dept. of Education and in active status.

DCFS Scholarship Program

- Monthly stipend of $511 up to 5 consecutive years
- Medical card until age 23
- Reimbursement available for books not covered by financial aid grants
- Tuition & Mandatory fee waiver if attending Illinois state funded community colleges or universities
Education & Training Voucher (ETV)

- Up to $5,000 to cover education related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment and/or transportation not covered by other grants or scholarships.
- Funding available until age 23 if ETV used before age 21 and student is continuing to make SAP in the program.
- Award is based on Cost of Attendance and other grants/scholarships.
- Covered tuition, fees, books & supplies that were not covered by financial aid, grants or scholarships.
- Funds can be used in trade or vocational schools to cover supplies or equipment not covered by financial aid, grants or scholarships as long as the school is listed as currently accredited by the U.S. Dept. of Education web site.
- Computers allowed ONLY if schools include a computer in their Cost of Attendance.
Community College Payment Program (CCPP)

- Pay in-district community college tuition, fees, and books not covered by financial aid.
- Services and assistance from case worker and/or Department Education Advisors
- Certificate programs at the community college not eligible for federal financial aid such as: CNA, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Tech, Medical Billing & Coding, Security Training, Forklift Training, etc.
Post Secondary Education Preparation Fees Paid By DCFS

- DCFS Payment Procedures 359.75 (m)
  - Allows the following payment for college/vocational school fees
  - Post Secondary Preparation Fees
    - $200 maximum for school applications
    - $500 maximum for college room and board
Helpful Links

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
  - https://fafsa.ed.gov
- FSA ID
  - https://fsaid.ed.gov
- ISAC- Student Portal
  - https://studentportal.isac.org
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
  - https://hsf.net
- United Negro College Fund
  - http://www.uncf.org
- NIU Center for Child Welfare and Education (Educational Access Project- Education Advisors)
  - http://ccwe.niu.edu
Presenter’s contact information

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Words of Wisdom

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

Thomas A. Edison