



Latinos CAN Financial Aid Toolkit



Latino College Access Network

Iowa Office of Latino Affairs

About Latinos CAN

The Latino College Access Network (Latinos CAN) is a statewide initiative that strives to eliminate the educational attainment gap for Latino students in Iowa. We work in partnership with various statewide agencies and organizations to create systems change which will aid Latino students in earning a postsecondary education.

Latinos CAN Member Organizations



About the Office of Latino Affairs

Serves as an ongoing resource for Iowans of Latino Heritage, Government agencies, businesses and other entities in the state.

The Office helps remove barriers for Latino Iowans and bridge existing cultural, language, and service gaps.

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8 Myths About Financial Aid

MYTH 1

MY PARENTS MAKE TOO MUCH MONEY TO QUALIFY FOR AID

- Your eligibility for financial aid is based off of many factors; including family size.
- There is no income limits.
- Many schools review your FAFSA application for institutional aid.

MYTH 2

I SUPPORT MYSELF, SO I DON'T HAVE TO INCLUDE MY PARENTS' INFO ON THE FAFSA® FORM

- Even if you support yourself, live on your own, or file your own taxes, you may still be considered a dependent student for FAFSA purposes.
- If you're independent, you won't need to include your parents' information on your FAFSA form, but if you're dependent, you will.
- Find out if you are an independent student here: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>

MYTH 3

I SHOULD WAIT UNTIL I'M ACCEPTED TO A COLLEGE BEFORE I FILL OUT THE FAFSA® FORM

- You can start as early as the fall of your senior year of high school.
- You must list at least one college to receive your information.
- You **SHOULD** list all schools you're considering even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet.

MYTH 4

IF I DIDN'T RECEIVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR SCHOOL, I'M OUT OF LUCK.

- You can:
 - Apply for scholarships
 - Create a payment plan with the institution
 - Work part-time
 - Look into loans

MYTH 5

I SHOULD CALL "THE FAFSA® PEOPLE" (FEDERAL STUDENT AID) TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH FINANCIAL AID I'LL RECEIVE AND WHEN

- Federal Student Aid does not award or disburse your aid, so they won't be able to tell you what you'll receive or when you'll receive it.
- Your school's financial aid office will have those answers

MYTH 6

THERE'S ONLY ONE FAFSA® DEADLINE AND THAT'S NOT UNTIL OCTOBER

- NOPE! There are at least three deadlines you need to check:
 - Your state, school, and federal deadlines.
- You can find state and federal deadlines at our "FAFSA® Application Deadlines" page: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/fafsa-deadlines>

MYTH 7

I ONLY HAVE TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA® FORM ONCE

- You have to fill out the FAFSA form **every year** you're in school in order to stay eligible for federal student aid.
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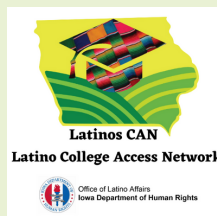
MYTH 8

I CAN SHARE AN FSA ID WITH MY PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)

- NOPE! An FSA ID serves as part of a person's identification, as well as their electronic signature, and should only be used by that individual.
- If you're a dependent student, your parent will need to have his or her own FSA ID to sign your FAFSA form electronically.
- If your parents are **undocumented**, you will need to print the application, have them sign it and then mail it in.

SOURCES

- <https://www.ed.gov/content/7-common-myths-about-financial-aid>
- <https://studentaid.gov/articles/breaking-down-fafsa-myths/>



TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

GRANTS

- A grant is a form of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid
- A variety of federal grants are available, including:
 - Pell Grants
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
 - Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
 - and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants.

LOANS

When you receive a student loan, you are borrowing money to study in a college or career school. You must repay the loan as well as interest that accrues.

WORK STUDY JOBS

- Provide part-time employment for students with financial need, enabling them to earn money to pay for higher education expenses.
- The total amount awarded depends on when the student submits their application, their economic needs and the financing capacity of the educational institution.
- The student is responsible for looking and obtaining their work study job at their institution once they learn they qualify.
- Wages from work study will be paid to the student directly.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY

Federal student aid may be available for studying at a school outside the United States, whether you're studying abroad or getting your degree from an international school.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Many non-profit and private organizations offer scholarships to help students pay for college or career school. This type of free money, which is sometimes based on academic merit, a particular talent, or area of study.

MILITARY FAMILIES

There are special financial aid programs or additional aid availability for those serving in the military or for being the spouse or child of a veteran. For example:

- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Benefits
- Limited Interest Rates
- No Accrual of Interest
- Deferment of Student Loans
- And more resources!
- <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/military>

Sources:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>
<https://www.benefits.gov/es/benefit/596>

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

AID FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Besides financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the federal government offers a number of other financial aid programs. These programs include

- Tax benefits for education. There are two credits available to help taxpayers offset the costs of higher education.
 - The American opportunity tax credit
 - And the lifetime learning credit may reduce the amount of income tax owed.
- For more information: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/two-education-credits-help-taxpayers-with-college-costs>
- Education awards for community service with AmeriCorps;
- Educational and training vouchers for current and former foster care youth; and/or
- Scholarships and loan repayment programs through the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service, National Institutes of Health, and National Health Service Corps.

Many schools offer grants and scholarships from their own financial aid funds. Find out what might be available to you:

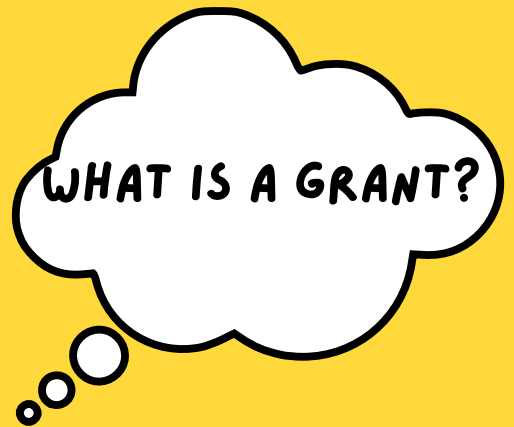
- Visit your school's financial aid page on their website, or contact the financial aid office.
- Ask about departmental scholarships ; they might have a scholarship for students in your major.
- Fill out any additional institutional applications your school requires for its own aid
- programs, and meet your school's deadlines.

Sources:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>

GRANTS

A grant is a monetary gift for people pursuing higher education. It is often based on financial need and does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund).



Types of Grants

Federal Pell Grant Program

The Pell Grant is the largest federal grant program offered to undergraduates and is designed to assist students from low-income households. A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances. To qualify for a Pell Grant, a student must demonstrate financial need through the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA®) form.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is a grant that is awarded to an undergraduate student who demonstrates exceptional financial need to help pay for their education. Awards can range from \$100–\$4,000 and do not need to be repaid.

Sources:

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/article/grant>

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/article/federal-pell-grant-program>

FAFSA ROADMAP FOR IOWA'S LATINO STUDENTS

01

IF YOU ARE A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT

You are a U.S. citizen if:

- You were born in the United States or certain U.S. territories
- You were born abroad to parents who are U.S. citizens
- You have obtained citizenship status through naturalization

You are a Permanent Resident if you have a GREEN CARD



YOUR PARENTS' SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)

- Your parent's DON'T have to have a SSN
- You WON'T be asked about your parents immigration or citizenship status.



02

FILL OUT THE FAFSA

If one or your parents doesn't have a SSN:

- Enter all zeros for their SSN (000-00-0000)
- Don't enter their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

NOTE: The parent without a Social Security Number **WON'T** be able to sign electronically - click "print signature page" to sign on paper and mail the signed form to the address provided.

03

01

IF YOU ARE A DACA OR TPS RECIPIENT

DACA or TPS students with a Social Security number(SSN) can fill out the FAFSA if it's required by their institution.

If you have DACA or TPS and don't have a SSN, you can apply to get one (<https://www.ssa.gov/people/im/migrants/>)



IF YOU ARE ASKED TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA TO OBTAIN YOUR EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

DACA or TPS recipients ARE NOT eligible to receive federal or state financial aid, but, might qualify for local grants, private funds and/or financial assistance from your institution



02

FILL OUT THE FAFSA

- Indicate NO to the *Are you a U.S. Citizen* question.
- If your parents are don't have a SSN:
 - Enter all zeros for their SSN (000-00-0000)
 - Don't enter their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

NOTE: The parent without a Social Security Number **WON'T** be able to sign electronically - click "print signature page" to sign on paper and mail the signed form to the address provided.

03

01

IF YOU ARE UNDOCUMENTED

Undocumented students are NOT eligible to receive federal or state financial aid, BUT you might qualify for local grants, private funds and/or financial assistance from your institution.



SEEK HELP

DON'T fill out the FAFSA without speaking to a trusted school staff person or entity with knowledge about working with immigrants.



02

IF YOU ARE ASKED TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA TO OBTAIN YOUR EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

Your EFC may be used to determine your financial aid offer.



03

FILL OUT THE FAFSA

- Indicate NO to the *Are you a U.S. Citizen* question.
- If your parents are don't have a SSN:
 - Enter all zeros for their SSN (000-00-0000)
 - Don't enter their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

NOTE: The parent without a Social Security Number **WON'T** be able to sign electronically - click "print signature page" to sign on paper and mail the signed form to the address provided.

04

01

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS



DO NOT FILL OUT THE FAFSA



02

SEEK HELP

- Ask your parents or guardians about your immigration status
- Reach out to a trusted school staff person who has experience in helping undocumented parents and students
- Contact the Office of Latino Affairs
515-281-4080 or Sonia.Reyes@iowa.gov

NOTE: Never give personal information on the phone or through email.

03

RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH

F There are several resources available that will assist youth with college expenses. The first step in receiving any type of financial aid for college is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

A

F The FAFSA is the application for federal grants and scholarships (like the Pell Grant) and must be completed if the student is to receive any financial aid. The results of the FAFSA determine how much financial aid each student will receive.

S

A

Students who exit foster care at age 18 or older, can answer **'yes'** to the question which asks, "**At any time since you turned 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?**"

- By answering yes, the student will be treated as an independent student and no parental information or income is required.
- Students who answer 'yes' to this question should anticipate that the college/university will require proof of their foster care/ward of the court status.
- Most colleges/universities will accept a copy of the court order placing them into the care of DHS or a letter from a social worker on DHS letterhead.
- If you are in need of a Ward of Court Letter or proof that you were in foster care beyond age 13 for your financial aid office for your college, you can contact your former case worker, JCO, local TPS or your ETV Coordinator for this letter.
- The state you aged out of will have these records.

The FAFSA should be completed starting in October of the student's Senior year in high school for intended start time in August. For assistance completing the FAFSA, please contact your Transition Planning Specialist.

RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH

THE STATE OF IOWA OFFERS 2 PROGRAMS THAT HELP PAY FOR COLLEGE:

ETV EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER GRANT

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) provides awards of up to \$5,000 per year to:

- Students who age out of foster care
- Or students who are adopted
 - or exited foster care with support from the Subsidized Guardianship Program after age 16.
- Awards are sent directly to the college or university and can be used to pay for tuition/fees, room/board, book/supplies and personal/living expenses.

ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (AIOS) provides awards to:

- Students must fill out the Iowa Financial Aid Application to qualify for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship.
- Students who age out of foster care
- Students who are adopted after age 16
- Or students who age out of the Iowa State Training School.
- The award amount award amount is determined in the spring.
- Awards are sent directly to the college or university and can be used to pay for tuition/fees, room/board, book/supplies and personal/living expenses.

Resources for Latino Students

- Iowa Spanish Helpline - Linea de Ayuda
- Immigration Services
- Interpretation and Translation Services
- Latin-American and Spain Embassies & Consulates
- Latino Media
- Latino Organizations
- Latino Service Providers Coalition
- Mental Health Providers
- Public Benefits Interactive Map
- LATINOS CAN
 - a. Scholarships & Educational Resources for Latino Families
 - b. Educational Guide for Latino Students & Families
 - c. Latinos CAN - FAFSA Videos (English and Spanish)
- Salir Adelante Program - Iowa State University



Latinos CAN

Latino College Access Network

Latino College Access Network

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/latinos-can>

DHR.LatinoAffairs@iowa.gov

515-281-4040



**Office of Latino Affairs
Iowa Department of Human Rights**

FINANCIAL AID TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ***Early Action***

Early action is a college admission policy that allows applicants to apply and receive notice of their admission early. Applicants accepted under early action are not under a binding agreement to attend that school and may submit applications to other schools.

- ***Early Decision***

Early decision is a college admission policy that allows applicants who commit to attend a school to apply and receive notice of their admission early. If an applicant is accepted, he or she agrees to attend that school and must withdraw all other applications.

- ***Expected Family Contribution (EFC)***

A measure of your family's financial strength. States and colleges use this number to help determine your financial aid award. The EFC is calculated using information you supply about your family's financial circumstances.

- ***Enrollment Status***

Enrollment status is reported by the school you attended, and indicates whether you are, or were, full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, less than half-time, withdrawn, graduated, etc.

- ***FAFSA***

To apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans, you need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

Sources:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-basics/what-is-financial-aid/financial-aid-glossary-learn-the-lingo>

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/articles>

FINANCIAL AID TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- *Federal Student Aid*

Federal student aid is aid from the government in the form of grants, loans, and/or work-study to assist students with college or career school. Students have to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for this aid.

- *FSA ID*

The FSA ID allows students and parents to identify themselves electronically to access Federal Student Aid websites. While you aren't required to have an FSA ID to complete and submit a FAFSA form, it's the fastest way to sign your application and have it processed.

Parents without a Social Security Number won't be able to obtain an FSA ID, they must print the application, sign it, and mail it in.

- *Grant*

A grant is a monetary gift for people pursuing higher education. It is often based on financial need and does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund).

- *Loan*

Money you borrow from the government, a bank or another source. Loans need to be paid back, usually over an agreed period of time. You will most likely also have to pay interest on a loan — a fee for borrowing the money.

Sources:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-basics/what-is-financial-aid/financial-aid-glossary-learn-the-lingo>

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/articles>

FINANCIAL AID TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- *Merit Aid*

Financial aid given to students based on their personal achievements. Most scholarships are considered merit aid, as they are generally awarded for success in school, the arts, athletics or another area.

- *Need-Based Financial Aid*

Financial aid (grants, scholarships, loans and work-study opportunities) given to students because they and their families are not able to pay the full cost of attending a certain college. This is the most common type of financial aid.

- *Net Price Calculator*

An online tool that gives you a personalized estimate of what it will cost to attend a specific college. Most colleges are required by law to post a net price calculator on their websites.

- *Net Price*

Net price is the true amount a student will pay for a college education. Another common definition of “net price” is the Cost of Attendance (COA) at a college (including Tuition & Fees, Room and Board, books & supplies, and other personal expenses) minus the gift aid and education tax benefits.

Sources:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-basics/what-is-financial-aid/financial-aid-glossary-learn-the-lingo>

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/articles>

FINANCIAL AID TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- *Scholarship*

A kind of "gift aid" — financial aid that doesn't have to be paid back. Scholarships may be awarded based on merit or partially on merit. That means they're given to students with certain qualities, such as proven academic or athletic ability. Learn more about gift aid

- *Student Aid Report (SAR)*

The report sent to your family after you submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that tells you what your expected family contribution (EFC) is.

- *Undergraduate*

A college student working toward an associate degree or a bachelor's degree.

- *Work-Study*

A program that allows students to take a part-time campus job as part of their financial aid package. To qualify for the Federal Work-Study Program, which is funded by the government, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some colleges have their own work-study programs.

Sources:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-basics/what-is-financial-aid/financial-aid-glossary-learn-the-lingo>

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/articles>

For more
information
or if you have
any
questions,
contact us!



Office of Latino Affairs

321 E 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

515-281-4080

Latino College Access Network

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/latinos-can>



Office of Latino Affairs
Iowa Department of Human Rights