

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS AND APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

READY TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION?

Make sure you follow these steps to get the financial resources you may qualify for to help offset your college, university, or vocational school expenses:

- Determine which financial aid application you should complete:**
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Undocumented students in California should complete the CADAA.
- Determine if you are a dependent or independent student:**
For the purpose of applying for financial aid, dependent students (most students are until the age of 24), will need their parents'/legal guardians' financial information and signature to complete the application.
- Foster Youth Students:** If you are or were in foster care for at least one day, between the ages of 16 and 18 as a dependent or ward of the court and have financial need, you may qualify for the California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth. Submit the Chafee Grant application in addition to the FAFSA or CADAA to receive consideration for this additional grant.
- Get help with filling out your application.** The easiest way is to sign up for a Free Cash for College Workshop at your high school or nearby, or sign up for a virtual workshop, and mark your calendar so you remember to attend!
- Review the documents you will need to fill out the application.**
This includes having a list of the colleges/universities/vocational schools you are considering attending. If you are filling out the FAFSA, you and your parent/legal guardian (if applicable) should create an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA form online.
- Complete and SUBMIT your application.** Submit your application as soon as possible and before the March 2* deadline to maximize your opportunities for financial aid. Make sure you follow up with the financial aid office of the college, university, or vocational school you will be attending to complete any additional steps you may need to receive your financial aid.

*If you're planning to attend a California Community College, September 2 is your last chance to apply.