

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 25, 2018



To Students and Families of California:

My name is Lupita Cortez Alcalá and I am the Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), a state agency that administers free financial aid to California students pursuing higher education. The California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is a free application from CSAC that provides access to state financial aid for non-resident students (AB 540), including undocumented students, who are attending or want to attend California colleges and universities.

We at CSAC understand the fear that the current political climate surrounding immigration has caused many undocumented students and their families, particularly when it comes to applying for state-sponsored student financial aid through the CADAA. With all of the uncertainty around immigration status, I would like to reassure you that CSAC is committed to doing everything in its power to remain a safe and welcoming resource for all students, regardless of immigration status, so that you can access state student financial aid and pursue a higher education.

CSAC protects all student information provided to us to the greatest extent of the law. At CSAC, we have strict security and confidentiality policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity and confidentiality of student records.

If you are an undocumented high school senior or a college student weighing options for the future, I urge you to consider applying or reapplying to a California college and completing the CADAA to access your financial aid opportunities. A college or vocational education in California is still open to you, along with free state financial aid. Should Congress in the future act to protect Dreamers, as the leaders of our state government and educational systems have urged them to do, progress toward a degree can only be beneficial for you and your family.

It is important to remember that **you do not need DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status to apply for financial aid** using the CADAA. Students with or without DACA status who qualify for the AB540 nonresident tuition exemption are eligible to apply. To learn more, please visit our website at <http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream.act.asp>. To apply for financial aid, please visit <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lupita Cortez Alcalá".

Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission