

National Training for Counselors and Mentors



Funding Education
Beyond High School

Academic Year
2016–2017



Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid



Agenda

- Undocumented students definition
- Federal financial aid
- State financial aid and other state benefits
- Other sources of financial aid
- Counseling undocumented students



What Does it Mean to be Undocumented?

- Individual lacks the documents required for immigration or legal residence
- Individuals may have:
 - Entered the country legally on a temporary basis and stayed after documents expired
 - Entered without documents
 - Been brought to the country by someone else



Statistics about Undocumented Residents

- Approximately 75% are from Mexico and Latin America
- The majority live in six states: California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Florida and Arizona
- Other states have seen significant growth in undocumented residents in the past 10-15 years



Statistics about Undocumented Students

1.7 Million	Under age 30
1 Million	Under age 18
80,000	Reach age 18 annually
65,000	Graduate from high school annually

Nationally, 40 percent of undocumented young people ages 18-24 do not complete high school, compared with 8 percent of their U.S.-born peers

Source: Center for American Progress, December 2014



Undocumented Parents

- Parents' undocumented status usually does not affect student's eligibility to apply for certain types of aid (i.e. FAFSA)
- Eligibility for financial aid typically depends on the student's citizenship status



Federal Student Assistance

Student Eligibility

- To be eligible for federal student assistance, students must be:
 - U.S. Citizens or U.S. Nationals
 - U.S. Permanent Residents
 - Citizens of the Freely Associated States (Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands)
 - Eligible Non-Citizens (Specific eligible categories)



Categories of Eligible Noncitizens

- Persons granted asylum
- Persons paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Refugees
- Victims of human trafficking
- Battered immigrants-qualified aliens and their designated children
- Conditional entrants
- Cuban-Haitian entrants



Eligible Noncitizens

- Are usually able to document their status with an I-94 or Arrival Departure Record
- Can usually apply for Permanent Resident status after specified time period, such as one year



Ineligible Immigration Statuses

- Family unity status
- Temporary residents
- Non-immigrant visas for work, study, tourists, and foreign government officials



Student Options for Federal Aid

- If you work with undocumented students, you may need to refer them to an attorney familiar with immigration law and regulations about the feasibility of student obtaining permanent status in the U.S.



Recent Federal Action

- DREAM Act (as proposed) Aug 2001 - present
- Executive Action (DACA) Jun 2012
- Executive Action (DAPA) Nov 2014

Note: Executive actions do not change the federal student assistance eligibility rules. Undocumented students remain ineligible for federal student assistance at this time.



Recent State Action

- Allowing in-state tuition
- Providing state financial assistance
- Banning in-state tuition
- Prohibiting enrollment at any public college or university in the state

Note: State actions do not change the federal student assistance eligibility rules. Undocumented students remain ineligible for federal student assistance at this time.



3 States Prohibit In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students

- Arizona
- Georgia
- Indiana

2 States Prohibit Undocumented Students from Enrolling at any Public Postsecondary Institution

- Alabama
- South Carolina

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2015

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview>



18 States Currently Allow In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students

- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2015

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview>



Typical Eligibility Criteria for In-State Tuition

- Attend a high school for two to four years within the state
- Complete a high school diploma or GED
- Enroll in a public postsecondary educational institution
- File affidavit stating intent to legalize status and become permanent resident



Currently 5 States have Provisions Allowing State Financial Aid for Undocumented Students

- California
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- Texas
- Washington

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2015

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview>



Typical State Model for Undocumented Student Eligibility

- Redefines residency for the purpose of tuition charges
- Make exemptions for payment of out-of-state tuition for certain categories of students



Financial Aid from Colleges and Universities

- Institutional scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study programs
- Availability of institutional aid varies widely
- Scholarship funds come with a merit component



Examples of Aid from Private Sources

- FastWeb
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Get Ready for College
- Latino College Dollars
- Scholarships for Hispanics
- Genesco Migrant Center



Be Proactive with Private Aid

- Locating private aid sources is labor intensive and time consuming
- Be proactive and identify local sources of aid
- Make information easily available
- Good for student assistants or local advocacy organizations



Counseling Undocumented Students

- Create a Safe Environment for Students:
 - Non-threatening
 - No requirement to report status
 - Be supportive and encouraging
- Be Proactive:
 - Be aware of what is available at the state and local levels to assist undocumented students
 - Include the student's family in counseling



Questions/Discussion



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