

Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid

What Does It Mean to be Undocumented?

- An individual lacks documents required for immigration or legal residence.
- Individuals may have:
 - Entered the U.S. illegally;
 - Entered the U.S. legally on a temporary basis and stayed after documents expired; or
 - Been brought into the U.S. by someone else.

Statistics about Undocumented Immigrants

- 75% are from Mexico and Latin America.
- The majority live in California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Florida, and Arizona.
- Other areas have seen significant growth in undocumented population on past 10 to 15 years.
- 1.1 million are children under age 18.
- Four million children are U.S. citizens by birth but have undocumented parents.
- Approximately 65,000 graduate from U.S. high schools each year.

Eligibility for Federal Aid

Students must be:

- U.S. citizens or nationals;
- U.S. permanent residents;
- Citizens of the Freely Associated States: Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands; or
- 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, and
 - Cuban-Haitian entrants.

Ineligible immigration statuses:

- Family unity status;
- Temporary residents; and
- Non-immigrant visas, such as work, students, tourists, and foreign government officials.

State Aid

- 13 states have passed legislation that allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities.
 - California;
 - Illinois;
 - Kansas;
 - Nebraska;
 - New Mexico;
 - New York;
 - Oklahoma;
 - Texas;
 - Utah;
 - Washington;
 - Wisconsin;
 - Maryland; and
 - Connecticut.
- Three states have passed legislation prohibiting undocumented students from paying in-state tuition:
 - Arizona;
 - Colorado; and
 - Georgia.
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Attend state high school for two to four years;
 - Complete a high school diploma or GED in state;
 - Enroll in a public postsecondary institution; and
 - File affidavit stating intent to legalize status and become permanent resident.
- Models:
 - States redefine residency for purpose of tuition charges; or
 - States make exemptions for payment of out-of-state tuition for certain categories of students.

Aid from Colleges and Universities

- Institutional scholarship, grant, loan, and work-study programs.
- Varies widely among institutions.
- Scholarship funds come with merit component.

Aid from Private Sources

- Fast Web: www.fastweb.com.
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund: www.maldef.org.
- Get Ready for College: <http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/gPg.cfm?pageID=1586>.
- Latino College Dollars: www.latinocollegedollars.org.
- Scholarships for Hispanics: www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org.
- Genesco Migrant Center: www.migrant.net.

Counseling Undocumented Students

- Provide safe environment.
 - Non threatening;
 - Not required to report status; and
 - Supportive.
- Resources.
 - Be proactive;
 - Be aware of what is available at state and local level; and
 - Conduct counseling with family present.

This page intentionally left blank.