

Guidance for Students Who Have Experienced Homelessness

- Create a WebGrants 4 Students Account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov** after your FAFSA or CADAA is processed, which can take 1-2 weeks. Check for the following:
 - Check your Cal Grant award status (Awarded, Pending or Not Awarded) and verify if there are any “pending” items or “To-Do’s” that need to be completed.
 - Confirm that your “School of Attendance,” the college you plan to attend, is accurate. Verify that your GPA has been received and matched to your application in order to receive the Cal Grant. If not, contact your high school counselor or the California Student Aid Commission.
 - Self-certify your high school graduation date AFTER you graduate.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) to learn about your eligibility for federal student aid.** If you provided an email on the FAFSA, you will receive it within 1-2 weeks. Learn more at: studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/review-and-correct/review.
- Check your email and college student portal weekly.** The college will communicate with you if they need more information. Even after college starts, continue to check it often.
- Respond promptly to any information requests to provide verification in order to receive your financial aid**
 - If verification of homeless status is requested:
 - ⇒ *If status can be verified by a McKinney-Vento liaison at your high school or a HUD or RHYA funded shelter:* Ask them to complete the form found at schoolhouseconnection.org/sample-formletter-to-determine-the-independent-student-status-of-unaccompanied-homeless-youth.
 - ⇒ *If status cannot be verified by one of these entities:* Contact your college's financial aid office.
 - If you did not file a tax return, you may be required to submit an IRS Verification of Nonfiling Letter. Learn more by visiting <https://jbay.org/resources/irs-vnf/>.
- Update all of your accounts if your address, email or phone number changes (e.g., WebGrants, college portal, FAFSA/CADAA, etc.)
- Apply for other scholarships and campus support programs such as EOP, EOPS, Disabled Student Services.

- **Need help?** Contact your college's financial aid office, homeless liaison or basic needs center or a high school counselor.
- **Questions about the Cal Grant, WebGrants or CADAA?** Contact the California Student Aid Commission at 1-888-224-7268, studentsupport@csac.ca.gov or visit csac.ca.gov
- **Questions about the FAFSA or federal student aid?** Visit studentaid.ed.gov, call 1-800-433-3243, submit questions to the U.S. Department of Education at: <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact> or use live help built in at FAFSA on the Web.
- **Schoolhouse Connection:** Resources for homeless students: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/fafsa/>