
October 2022
Authors

This guide was developed with support from:

• **Mark Kantrowitz**
  • Co-author of *Filing the FAFSA*
  • Author of *How to Appeal for More College Financial Aid*
  • Helped develop FAFSA on the Web in 1996

• **David Levy**
  • Co-author of *Filing the FAFSA*
  • Served as Director of Financial Aid at many of the nation’s leading colleges
This Guide is intended to complement the Financial Aid Guide for California Homeless Youth with screen shots of the actual online California Dream Act Application (CADAA) form and detailed step-by-step instructions for youth who have experienced homelessness.

Please refer to the full Guide for information on the different types of financial aid, what to do after filing the CADAA, and how to maintain financial aid eligibility.

jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-ca-homeless-youth/
Intended Audience

• This guide is intended for youth who have experienced homelessness in California who qualify for “Independent Student Status” on the CADAA. If you do not qualify for “Independent Student Status,” you will need to complete the Parental Demographics section and provide financial information about you and your parent(s). Information about this process is not included in this guide.

• This guide is intended for students completing the online CADAA, which is only available in English. For students who wish to complete the CADAA in Spanish, they must complete a paper application. For assistance, refer to the “Spanish Guide to Complete the Paper CA Dream Act Application” found at: http://jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/

• If you are a current or former foster youth who was in foster care at least one day after your 13th birthday or in a court-ordered legal guardianship, you may also qualify for “Independent Status.” Visit the financial aid resources for foster youth to learn more: https://jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/
How to Apply for Financial Aid
Where to Apply for Financial Aid

**IF YOU ARE A U.S. CITIZEN, A PERMANENT RESIDENT OR OTHER ELIGIBLE NON-CITIZEN**

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Apply at: fafsa.gov

*What is an eligible non-citizen? Examples include a U.S. permanent resident who has a green card (Permanent Resident Card), a conditional permanent resident with a conditional Green Card, or a “refugee.” You can find the complete list on the FAFSA.

**OR**

**IF YOU ARE AN ELIGIBLE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT**

Complete the California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

Apply at: dream.csac.ca.gov

---
What is the CADAA?

• The California Dream Act Application (CADAA) allows undocumented and nonresident documented students who meet certain eligibility requirements to apply for state financial aid such as the Cal Grant and Chafee Grant.

• Students who complete the CADAA are not eligible for federal financial aid, like the Pell Grant.

• It also allows qualified students to pay in-state resident fees (instead of higher out-of-state fees) at California’s public colleges and universities.
Who is eligible to submit a CADAA?

Students who meet AB540 criteria, have Temporary Protected Status or hold a U Visa.

To qualify for AB 540 a student must satisfy ALL of the following criteria:

1. Three or more years of full-time attendance or attainment of equivalent credits earned in California from a high school, adult school or community college (credit or non-credit courses) or any combination of the three:
   
   or

2. Three or more years of full-time high school coursework and attended a combination of elementary, middle and/or high school in California for a combined total of three or more years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfy one of the following:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Graduate from a California high school, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Obtain a GED, HiSET or TASC in California, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Attain an associate degree from a California Community College, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Fulfilled the minimum transfer requirements to transfer from a California Community College to a University of California or California State University.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will register or enroll in an accredited and qualifying California college or university

Does not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, B, C, D, E, etc.)
Does DACA status and having a social security number impact eligibility?

• Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status is not required to apply for the CADAA. Students who never applied to DACA or lost DACA status may still be eligible.

• If you received DACA status and were issued a social security number, you must still fill out the CADAA.

• If you have a social security card, but it says “VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION” you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA. You must meet the AB540 criteria on the prior slide to be eligible for the CADAA.

• Your parent’s citizenship status does not impact your eligibility to receive financial aid under the CADAA.
CADAA Information is Private!

• CADAA information is not shared with the Federal government
• The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) protects the confidentiality of student records
• CSAC has never shared any information about a student’s immigration status, documented or undocumented
• CSAC also complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which protects the privacy of student education records
When to Apply

• Students planning to attend a four-year university should apply between October 1 and March 2 before the start of the school year to ensure eligibility for a Cal Grant and institutional aid.

• Community college students have until September 2 to apply for a Cal Grant.

Some colleges may have earlier priority deadlines, so check with your campus.

Students can apply for financial aid before they submit college applications.
What to Bring to Apply for the CADAA

Email Address: Use an email address that you check often. Avoid high school email addresses that expire.

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN): An undocumented immigrant would obtain an ITIN to file a federal income tax return. This is an optional field and may not pertain to you if you didn’t make enough money to be required to file taxes.

List of up to 10 colleges you plan to apply to: You can update this later, if needed. At least one is required to complete the application

Financial Information: You will be asked to indicate your assets as of the date you complete your CADAA, such as how much is currently in your checking or savings AND provide any tax or income information from the prior-prior year (i.e. provide 2021 tax or income info if completing the 2023-2024 CADAA). Be sure to gather any federal income tax returns, W-2’s and 1099 forms if you worked in the prior-prior year.

Statewide Student Identifier (SSID): a 10-digit number that is given to all students enrolled in a California elementary, middle or high school. This is optional but recommended.
CADAA Application Options

The online application is only available in English only at:
dream.csac.ca.gov

Paper applications are available in English & Spanish:
Call 1-888-CA-GRANT (1-888-224-7268) or download a PDF version at
dream.csac.ed.gov

It is recommended to complete the online application to reduce any chances of errors, however if you would like to complete the paper application in Spanish, get assistance with the “Spanish Guide to Complete the Paper CA Dream Act Application” found at:
jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/
STEP 1: BEGIN A NEW CADAA AT DREAM.CSAC.CA.GOV

Reminder:
The CADAA must be filled out EVERY year! This is a FREE application.

New to the CADAA Process:
Click “Start.”

Returning User:
Click “Login.” You can also login to make corrections or add a new college to your application.
Starting a new CADAA begins with registration to verify your eligibility for the CADAA.

-Click Continue.
The CADAA will confirm your eligibility by asking if you have a Social Security Number.

→ Choose “No” if you have a work-only Social Security Number through DACA.

Next, it will ask if you meet the AB540 criteria and list the various eligibility requirements. For more information about eligibility, see pages 8 & 9.
If you meet the eligibility requirements, you will be informed that you are eligible to file a CADAA and can click “Start Application.”
Create a user account (PART I):

You will need to provide your name and date of birth, and create a User ID.

Your name and date of birth must match your high school or college records. If you use a different name on your college admissions applications than what was used in high school, you should contact your college/university.

Required fields are marked with a red asterisk (*).
CREATE A USER ACCOUNT

Create a user account (PART II):

**Student Address:** Do not provide a temporary mailing address. If you don’t have a permanent mailing address, ask your college’s financial aid administrator for help.

**Email Address:** You must provide an email address, as this is used for communication from CSAC and your college.

Double-check the email address to make sure there are no typos. Avoid using high school emails that can expire.

**TIP:** Emails from CSAC may go to your junk or spam folder, so be sure to check these folders and add csac.ca.gov as a “safe sender.”
You will receive an email message to confirm your email address.

Click on the link in the email message to activate your account.

You will be asked to create a password and can then login to the account.
You will be asked to provide answers to three security questions, which can be used to recover your account if you forget your password.
TIP

Write down these item somewhere safe so you don’t forget:

- Username
- Password
- Email Address & Password
- Challenge Questions & Answers
You’re Now Ready to Start Your Online CADAA!

Login with your new Username and begin the CADAA
When you login, a one-time passcode will be sent to your email address. You will need to enter this passcode to login to your account.
Select the school year that you plan to attend college. If you select the wrong year, your financial aid will not be processed.

Most students will want to complete the CADAA for next fall, which is the academic year on the left.

If you are applying for an upcoming summer session, it is recommended that you complete applications for both years. Schools have the option of using either the prior or upcoming year’s financial aid for summer. Once you’ve picked a college, check with the financial aid office about summer financial aid.

The web site will ask you to confirm your selection.
Read the instructions and then click on the OK button.

Welcome to your California Dream Act Application

Read these tips first

1. Questions with an asterisk (*) require an answer.
2. If it is determined that you are a DEPENDENT student, your parent will be required to sign the application. Anytime you make a change to your application, your parent will be required to sign. Failure to provide a parent signature, will leave your application incomplete. Your college/university cannot award you financial aid if your application is incomplete.
3. Save your application periodically. Sessions expire every 30 minutes. To prevent loss of application and information SAVE your application often.
4. The red text throughout the CA Dream Act Application means further action is required from you.
5. Based on your answers to questions, this application may skip questions that are not required.
6. Do not use your web browser’s BACK or FORWARD buttons. Using the web browser back or forward button will cause data to be lost. To prevent loss of data you should use the NEXT and PREVIOUS buttons at the bottom of each page. Remember to save often.
7. Make sure you submit your application when complete. Saving your application is not the same as submitting your application. Only submitted applications can be processed for financial aid.
8. If you need to make changes or corrections after submitting your application, you must wait at least 24 hours.
9. Use the Auto Hint toggle button at the top of the screen to enable or disable help screens. These help screens contain additional information to assist you in answering each question.
10. You do not have to file taxes to complete the application. However, you can use your 2021 taxes to complete the 2023 - 2024 CA Dream Act Application.
11. Check your Confirmation Page after you submit your application for possible error resolution and to see Action(s) Needed and Next Steps.

Ok
SECTION 1 OF THE CADAA:

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS
• Complete the three sections listed as tabs at the top of the screen. The website will take you through each section.
• Click “Save Application” at the bottom of the page to save your responses. Click “Next” at the bottom of the page to go to the next section.
• For detailed instructions and information about each question, click the information mark icon.
• The answers to some questions will be prefilled with your registration information.
• Only provide your Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) if you have one. Otherwise, leave blank.
Student Address and Email

- **Mailing Address:** This should be a permanent mailing address where you can receive postal mail, such as a P.O. Box. If you don’t have a permanent mailing address, ask your college’s financial aid administrator for help.

- **Email Address:** Double-check the email address to make sure there are no typos. The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and the colleges that you apply to for financial aid may send you important information via email. An email is not required, but recommended.

**TIP:** Emails from CSAC may go to your junk or spam folder, so be sure to check these folders and add csac.ca.gov as a “safe sender.”
**Student Residency**
You must be a California resident to qualify for the California student aid, such as the Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship, and in-state tuition.

You will also need to meet minimum GPA standards, so make sure that your high school has submitted your verified GPA and that it has been matched to your CADAA. Create a WebGrants account to verify if your GPA has been matched to your CADAA.

Learn more about WebGrants on pages 81-85.

Visit [https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/calgrant-high-school-entitlement-award](https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/calgrant-high-school-entitlement-award) to see minimum GPA requirements.
SSID: Enter your 10-digit Statewide Student Identification Number (SSID), if applicable.

A SSID is given to all students enrolled in a California public high school. If you don’t know your SSID, contact your high school.

Entering a SSID is not required but is recommended.

The SSID is not a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

Continued on next page.
Student Phone and Identification Information Continued:

Driver’s License:
A driver’s license is not required to complete the application but can help prevent identity theft.

Driving record and parking tickets do not affect eligibility for financial aid.
**Student Marital Status**

*Your* legal marital status is “single” if you are not married, even if you live with or have a boyfriend, girlfriend or significant other.

Married students are considered independent and will not have to fill out the Parent sections.
**Student Eligibility:** Undocumented and DACA students should choose “I am not a citizen or eligible non-citizen” as their citizenship status.

Students with a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or U visa should also select “I am not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen.”

Students with a T visa are eligible to file the FAFSA and should file the FAFSA instead.

If you are on a student visa or any other nonimmigrant visa (including A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N, O,P,R,S,TN,TD,V,TROV and NATO) you are not eligible to file the CADAA.
Student Education- PART I:
Will you have your first bachelor’s degree before you begin the 2023-2024 school year?

Most students should answer “No.”

What will your grade level be when you begin the 2023-2024 school year? If you took college courses while in high school, and were dually enrolled, you are still considered a first-time college student and should select “Never attended college/1st yr.”

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR MORE “STUDENT EDUCATION” QUESTIONS.
Select the option that best fits your initial educational goal.

- If you are planning to attend a four-year college, select “1st bachelor’s degree.”
- If you are planning on attending a community college, even if your ultimate educational goal is to obtain a bachelor’s degree, select one of the “associate degree” options.
- If you are unsure of your plans, select “1st bachelor’s degree.” Do NOT select “other/undecided.” However, if you decide to attend a community college, you should update your response to this question to avoid an error message and delays in your financial aid.
- Do not select “2nd bachelor’s degree” unless you already have a bachelor’s degree, as it may limit the grants that you receive.
What is the highest level of education your Parent completed?
→ It is ok to select “Other/unknown”
→ Parent does not refer to a legal guardian or foster parent.
→ How you answer does not affect your eligibility for student aid.
SECTION 2 OF THE CADAA:

SCHOOL SELECTION
If you indicated that you are still in high school or have completed your high school diploma in the “Demographics” section, when you get to the “School” section, you will see this screen asking you to provide the name, city and state of that high school.

**Important:** Use the search function to find your high school. This will help to ensure that your GPA is correctly matched when it is submitted by your high school.

You will not be prompted to answer this question if you indicated that you received a GED certificate, HomeSchool or None of the above in the prior section.
CADAA SECTION 2: SCHOOL SELECTION

- Search for and select up to 10 colleges that you may want to attend. Information from the CADAA will be sent to the schools you have selected.
- You can search for colleges by name or by using their Federal School Code.
- You can update or change school selections later if your plans change or you’re just not sure yet.
- You must select at least one college to continue with the CADAA.
- You do not need to have applied for admission yet to the colleges you list.
• Click on the name of the college to add

• Be careful when selecting your colleges. Some college names are very similar and it’s easy to get them confused.

• Costs vary by college type. State colleges and universities are generally the most affordable; private vocational/trade schools can be costly. Ask for help if needed to make selections.

• Be sure to list each UC or CSU campus to which you are applying for admission separately in this section.
You are then asked to indicate your housing plans for each campus. Most four-year universities or colleges offer on-campus housing, but only a few California community colleges do.

Do NOT select “With Parent” as your housing plan if you plan to live with a foster parent, other relative or legal guardian. Instead, select “Off-Campus.” This is crucial for maximizing your financial aid.

Note that the order in which you list the colleges does not make a difference in California.
You can list only 10 colleges at a time on your CADAA. After the CADAA has been processed and you have received your California Student Aid Report (Cal SAR), usually within 1-2 weeks, you can submit the CADAA to an additional 10 colleges, if necessary, by replacing the original set of 10 colleges with a new set of up to 10 colleges. Your original set of 10 colleges will still receive their copy of your CADAA information. Repeat this process as many times as necessary, each time waiting until you receive the Cal SAR. You can do this by visiting dream.csac.ca.gov or by calling 1-888-CA-GRANT (1-888-224-7268) or TTY 1-800-735-2929.
SECTION 3 OF THE CADAA:

DEPENDENCY STATUS
Dependency Determination

- Students who are determined to be independent do not need to provide information about parents.
- For independent students, eligibility for financial aid is based on the student’s (and spouse’s, if applicable) income and assets only.
- Students who will be 24 years old or older as of January 1 of the year for which they are applying for aid are automatically independent and will not be asked the questions in this section. (For example, if you plan to start school in August 2023, will you be 24 or older as of January 1, 2023.)
If you answer “Yes” to any of the dependency status questions, you are considered to be independent and parental information will not be required.

Married students are considered independent and will not have to fill out the Parent sections.

Your marital status is “single” if you are not married, even if you live with or have a boyfriend, girlfriend or significant other.

Students who are or will be enrolled in graduate school are considered independent.
Does Student have Dependents?
- If you have children or dependents, you will be considered independent on the CADAA and will not have to fill out the Parent section.
Student Household Size:

This screen appears only if you indicate that you have children or are married.

Count yourself, your spouse, children who receive more than half of their support from you (even if they don’t live with you) and other dependents who live with you and receive more than half their support from you.

Do not count your siblings, parents or other relatives.

Number in College: Enter “1” for number in college unless you have a spouse or children who will also be attending college at least half-time.
If you are under 24, not married and do not have children, you will be asked additional questions. If you can answer “Yes” to any of these, you will be considered an independent student on the CADAA.

If any of these are true for you, select “Yes”. If you can answer “yes”, you will not be asked about homeless status as you will already have independent status.

Otherwise, select “no” for each question.
If you did not answer “Yes” to any of the previous questions, you will be asked whether on or after July 1\textsuperscript{st} of the year prior to the award year, you were homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. \textbf{If you are planning to start college in Fall 2023, you would need to have been homeless any time after 7/1/22 to answer yes.}

See the next two slides for more information about what living circumstances qualify a student to answer yes.
Definition of Homeless Youth on the CADAA:
A Student Must be Unaccompanied AND either Homeless OR Self-Supporting & At Risk of Being Homeless

Unaccompanied =
Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

Homeless =
Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing
(Learn more on the next page)

OR

Self-supporting AND at risk of being homeless =
When a student pays for his own living expenses, including fixed, regular, & adequate housing AND when a student’s housing may cease to be fixed, regular, & adequate; for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing

Note: A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.
Who is Included in the Definition of Homelessness?

Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing includes students who:

(i) are staying with other people temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e., couch-surfing)

(ii) are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations

(iii) are living in emergency shelters

(iv) are living in their car, sleeping outside, or staying someplace not normally meant for human habitation.
If you answer “yes” to the previous question, you will be asked if you received a determination from any of the following:

- High school or school district homeless liaison
- Director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program

If you can select one of these options, you are considered to be independent on the CADAA and parent information will not be required.

Otherwise, select “None of the above”
SchoolHouse Connection:

*Make sure to use the form letter for the correct academic year*
If you selected “None of the Above” the next screen will ask you to confirm that you qualify as homeless and would like to follow up with financial administrator at your college to have your status verified.

Select “Next.”
Your Expected Family Contribution will not be calculated until the financial aid office makes the determination that you meet the homeless conditions and are therefore not required to provide parental information.

You MUST follow up with the financial aid office to verify your homeless status for your aid to be processed.
You must verify that you will not be providing parental information.
Information Regarding Homeless Determinations

• Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) can get assistance with making the determination by contacting college access programs, social workers, etc.

• If the FAA is making the determination & there is no written documentation available, the determination may be based on a documented interview with the student

• If a student receives a determination from a local liaison, or RHYA-funded or HUD-funded shelter or transitional living program, the FAA must accept this determination

• A student living in the school dormitory may still be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth if the student would be homeless otherwise

• A new determination must be made each year for the CADAA

• You can also request independent status for special circumstances such as an abusive family, parental incarceration or when parents’ whereabouts are unknown. Consult with the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend for more information.
SECTION 4 OF THE CADAA:

STUDENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

These instructions are for students with “Independent Status.” Dependent students will need to also provide parent information.
Pay careful attention to which year’s income, tax and asset information you have to report in this section.

- Income and tax information comes from the “prior-prior” year. For example, the 2023-2024 CADAA is based on 2021 income and tax information.

You will be asked if you completed your IRS federal income tax return for the appropriate year. You must select one of three options:
- Already Completed
- Will file
- Not going to file
If you selected “Not going to file,” you will not be asked any further questions and can proceed to page 70.

You may be required to submit a Verification of Non-Filing Letter from the IRS to verify that you did not file a tax return. For more information about this form visit: www.jbay.org/resources/irs-vnf

If you are unsure whether you made enough money to file a federal income tax return, look at Table 1-1 of IRS Publication 17: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p17.pdf

TIP: In 2021, if you were single and under age 65, you were not required to file a tax return if your gross income was less than $12,550. Gross income= total income paid to you before any deductions or taxes were taken out.
The remaining financial questions will ask about “your (and spouse’s)” information, regardless of if you are married.

You will be asked for your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and income tax from your 2021 federal income tax return.

**Tip:** The CADAA tells you on what line of your tax return you can find the requested information. Carefully follow these instructions.
**Student Income from Work**

You will be asked to report how much money you made from **working**. Include the information from your W-2 forms (box numbers 1 + 8) and 1099 forms.

If you did not work, enter zero. This question can’t be left blank.

**Student Assets**

You will also be asked to provide information about your current assets such as cash, savings and checking accounts, but not retirement plan accounts.
These questions concern amounts that may have been included in the income reported on your federal income tax return.

These amounts are subtracted from income to ensure that they do not count against your financial aid eligibility.

Some types of financial aid, such as AmeriCorps, Federal Work-Study and the taxable portion of college grants and scholarships, may have been included in taxable income on your federal income tax return.

A Cooperative Education Program is a college program that allows a student to apply their classroom knowledge to a paid work experience in a field related to their academic or career goals.
These questions concern types of income that are not reported on your federal income tax return. This “untaxed income” will be added to your adjusted gross income (AGI) or income earned from work to yield total income.

Do not report any of the following Information as income earned from work or untaxed income.

• Extended Foster Care (AB 12) benefits

• Welfare (CalWORKs) payments

• Untaxed Social Security benefits

• Supplemental Security Income (SSI) — do not confuse with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
Student Untaxed Income Continued:

Untaxed income that you should report may include:

- Contributions to retirement plans
- Child support *received* (not child support *paid*)
- Cash support received, such as if someone paid your bills.
This question asks whether the student received certain federal benefits during 2021 and 2022.

- Medi-Cal (Medicaid)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- CalFresh (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Free or Reduced Price School Lunch
- CalWORKS (TANF)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Checking any of these boxes will not affect your eligibility for these benefits. It also will not reduce your eligibility for state student financial aid.

See next page for information about “dislocated worker” status.
**Dislocated worker:** this includes anyone who experienced an involuntary loss of employment, such as anyone who

- Is receiving unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job and is unlikely to return to a previous occupation
- Has been laid off or received a lay-off notice from a job
- Was self-employed but is now unemployed due to economic conditions or natural disaster (e.g., COVID-19)
- Is the spouse of an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces and
  - has experienced a loss of employment because of relocating due to a permanent change in duty station or
  - is unemployed or underemployed, and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment
- Is a displaced homemaker. A displaced homemaker is generally a person who previously provided unpaid services to the family (e.g., a stay-at-home mom or dad), is no longer supported by the spouse, is unemployed or underemployed, and is having trouble finding or upgrading employment.
What if your income has changed since 2021?

If your income has decreased since 2021, for example, you lost a job or had your hours significantly reduced, contact the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend. They can recalculate your financial aid award to reflect your current income.
SECTIONS 5 AND 6 OF THE CADAA:

PARENT INFORMATION
If you were determined to be “Independent” you will not be required to complete the Parent Demographics and Parent Financials sections.
SECTION 7 OF THE CADAA: 
SIGN & SUBMIT

The final section of the CADAA!
Read the signing statement before signing the CADAA.

To sign the CADAA, check the box and click on the Submit button.

If there is any invalid data, you will be asked to correct the errors before saving or submitting the application. The sections containing the errors will be marked with a red exclamation point.

After you have corrected the errors, you can click on the Submit button again to sign the CADAA.

You will then be told that your application is being processed. This can take up to 24 hours. If you need to make any changes or corrections, you must wait until the CADAA is processed.
The Confirmation Page shows that your CADAA has been submitted.

It provides your CA Dream ID number and the date the CADAA was submitted.

Save or print a copy of the Confirmation Page.

The Confirmation Page may identify actions you will need to take to ensure that your eligibility can be determined.
AFTER THE CADAA

Filling out the CADAA is just the first step.
After 24 hours (possibly sooner), you will be able to download your California Student Aid Report (Cal SAR).

Click on the print icon to download or print the Cal SAR.
This is an example of a California Student Aid Report (Cal SAR).

The Cal SAR summarizes the information you submitted on the CADAA. Review it to confirm that there aren’t any errors.

After your CADAA is processed, the Cal SAR will include your expected family contribution near the top right of the first page, after the word “EFC.” This example shows an EFC of $0. An EFC of $0 means the student will likely qualify for maximum aid.

Save or print a copy of the Cal SAR.
• Submit a signed “Non-Resident Exemption” Request, also known as an “AB 540 Affidavit” in order to qualify for aid through the CADAA!

• This form states that you meet all the requirements to qualify for a non-resident exemption under AB 540 and, if you are undocumented, that you are in the process of legalizing your immigration status (or will do so as soon as you are eligible).

• A student should get the affidavit from the office of admission at the college the student plans to attend.

• You should complete this form upon accepting an offer to attend a college in California and at least one semester or quarter before you are scheduled to start classes.
Summary of the CADAA Process

START HERE:
Review college and state deadlines.

File the CADAA every year between October 1st and March 2nd. CA community college students have until September 2nd, if needed.

Gather documents needed to complete the CADAA

Create a User ID and Password for the CADAA

Fill out and sign the CADAA electronically

Print or save a copy of the confirmation page

Receive, review and correct the California Student Aid Report (Cal SAR)

Delete old colleges and add new colleges if applying to more than 10 CA Colleges.

Appeal for more financial aid if you have been affected by special circumstances, such as a decrease in income or loss or job.

Check email and college portal weekly.

Submit required documentation if CADAA selected for verification.

Review financial aid award letter or notification from each college.

Sign and submit the AB 540 Affidavit to the college the student will attend.
CREATE A WEBGRANTS ACCOUNT

Create this to view the status of your CADAA and Cal Grant
WebGrants 4 Students: mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

• Students will need to wait to create a WebGrants account until their CADAA is processed. It can take 24 hours for the CADAA to process and link to WebGrants.

• Colleges will receive CADAA information within 7-10 days. Colleges may request documentation to verify the information you provided on the Dream Act Application.
TIP: Make sure your contact information is up to date so CSAC can reach you.

CSAC communicates with students through their email address.

Here is the screen where you can edit contact information.
Check Your Award Status

Below are the possible award status cards in Webgrants. If you award status is pending, select “To Do” to determine next steps. If your award status is “not awarded,” click on “Reason” to learn more and consult with the financial aid office or CSAC if you believe there is an error.
1. Check your award status and amount for the Cal Grant

2. Verify if there are any “pending” items or forms that still need to be completed

3. Confirm that your school of attendance is accurate. This is referring to the college you plan to attend, not your high school.

4. Verify that your GPA has been received. If not, contact your high school counselor or the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

5. Enter your high school graduation date. This will become available on the 1st day of the month of your planned graduation.
Remember:

• Continue to 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 request to provide verification in order to receive your financial aid, such as a verification of homeless status or an IRS Verification of Nonfiling Letter (if you didn’t file taxes)

• 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, or Disability Student Services.

• Check out the Financial Aid Guide for California Homeless Youth to learn how to maintain your financial aid at: jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-ca-homeless-youth/. Once you receive financial aid, there are requirements you need to meet to keep receiving it.

• Reapply for CADAA every year!
HELPFUL RESOURCES
Sources of Free Help with the CADAA

- Live Help built into CADAA (Turn on “Auto Hint”)
- California Student Aid Commission (CSAC)
  - 1-888-CA-GRANT (1-888-224-7268)
  - If hearing impaired: 1-800-735-2929 (TTY) or 1-800-735-2922 (Voice)
  - StudentSupport@csac.ca.gov
- IRS Get a Tax Return Transcript – 1-800-908-9946
Resources for Undocumented Students at CA Public Colleges and Universities

• **Dreamer Resource Centers**: Most public colleges in California have a Dreamer Resource Center or Dream Success Center or similar for their undocumented students that offers a range of support and resources.

• **Resources for students attending Cal State University (CSU) campuses**: [https://www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students](https://www.calstate.edu/attend/student-services/resources-for-undocumented-students)

• **Resources for students attending University of California (UC) campuses**: [https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/](https://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/)

• **Resources for students attending a California Community College (CCC) campus, including contacts for UndocuLiaisons found at every campus**: [https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students](https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services/Special-population/Undocumented-Students)

• **Immigrants Rising**: Resources for undocumented youth to pursue a higher education and career found here: [https://immigrantsrising.org/](https://immigrantsrising.org/)
Scholarships for Undocumented Students

• Search for scholarships on free scholarship matching websites, such as Fastweb.com and the College Board’s Big Future website
• Students should apply for all scholarships for which they may be eligible
• For lists of scholarships, visit
  • www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/
  • immigrantsrising.org
  • goldendoorscholars.org
California Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program

- Encourages CADAA students who meet Cal Grant B eligibility to perform at least 150 hours of community or volunteer service
- 1,667 eligible students will receive up to $4,500 per academic year
- Renewable for up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters
- Recipients must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), such as earning at least a 2.0 GPA
- Students must apply annually
- For more information, visit www.csac.ca.gov/dsig