Completing the FAFSA/CADAA: A How-To for Adult Supporters of Foster Youth

October 26, 2022
Information to Participate

• This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on www.jbay.org.

• All attendees are muted.

• Connect to audio via your computer or via phone.

• Attendees may turn on or disable closed captioning.

• Submit questions in the “Q&A” at any time.
Presenters

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AGENDA

1. Why Financial Aid Matters
2. How to Apply for Financial Aid
3. After the FAFSA/CADAA
4. Helpful Resources
Why Financial Aid Matters
Financial Aid Makes a Difference

High School seniors that complete the FAFSA are 63% more likely to enroll in higher education.

- Students receiving at least $7,500 in financial aid: 49% transferred or graduated
- Students receiving $1,000 to $2,000: 17% transferred or graduated
Financial Aid Makes a Difference

For California youth in Extended Foster Care, the estimated odds of completing a degree were almost **2.4 times higher** for youth who received a Chafee ETV Grant than for youth who did not.
Foster Youth FAFSA/CADAA Challenge Statewide
Results for High School Seniors

2017-2018: 45%
2018-2019: 57%
2019-2020: 65%
2020-2021: 55%
2021-2022: 62%

Goal for 2022-2023: 70%!

Get involved with your County Office of Education (COE) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP): www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/
General Tips for Assisting Youth

- Provide high-touch intrusive support—sending an email isn’t enough.
- Make individual appointments for one-on-one assistance.
- Start the process early to support youth with the applications.
- Assistance can be in-person or virtual.
- Use this as an opportunity to talk to youth about their future and their potential!
Student Perspective

Christina Torrez

Youth Advocate,
John Burton Advocates for Youth
How to Apply for Financial Aid
Three Steps to Maximize Financial Aid

1) Complete the FAFSA or CADAA: 30 minutes – 1 hour
2) Complete the Chafee application: 10 minutes
3) Create a WebGrants Account: 10 minutes
Where to Apply for Financial Aid

IF YOU ARE A U.S. CITIZEN, A PERMANENT RESIDENT OR OTHER ELIGIBLE NON-CITIZEN (i.e. green card or permanent resident card)

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

OR

IF YOU ARE AN ELIGIBLE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT

Complete the California Dream Act Application (CADAA)
Apply in English or Spanish at: fafsa.gov

For paper applications call 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or download a PDF version at fafsa.ed.gov
CADAA Application Options

Apply online (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

TIP It is recommended to complete the online application
to reduce any chances of errors.
What is the CADAA?

- Allows eligible students to apply for state financial aid and pay in-state resident fees at CA public college and universities
- Students are not eligible for federal financial aid
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:

- Have attended California schools for a minimum period;
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent from California or a degree from a California community college;
- Be planning to enroll in an accredited California college or university; and
- Cannot hold a valid non-immigrant visa

See dream.csac.ed.gov for details
• Students with DACA should complete the CA Dream Act Application

• DACA status is not required to complete the CADAA

• CADAA information is private!
Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJS)

- Foster youth who are undocumented immigrants may qualify to receive SIJS.
- Students with a *pending* application for SIJS are not eligible for federal financial aid and should submit the CADAA.
- If an undocumented student does not have an application for SIJS pending, the child welfare agency should be contacted.
Definition of Need

Cost of Attendance (COA) - Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = Eligibility for Need-Based Aid
When to Apply

The priority application period is October 1\textsuperscript{st} – March 2\textsuperscript{nd}, before the start of the school year you plan to attend to college.

Students attending a CA community college have until September 2\textsuperscript{nd}.

Some colleges may have earlier priority deadlines.

Students can apply before they submit college applications.
What to Bring

- Email Address
- List of up to 10 colleges you plan to apply to
- Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number (FAFSA only)
- Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) (Optional on CADAA only)
- Tax or Income from the prior-prior year (i.e. 2021 info for the 2023-2024 application) or current assets.
Selective service registration is no longer required.

Gender is removed on the CADAA. On the FAFSA, gender is now asked in a new optional demographics section with non-binary as an option.

Restrictions related to having prior drug-related convictions no longer apply.
Let’s Get Started!
STEP 1: BEGIN A NEW FAFSA AT FAFSA.GOV

New to the FAFSA Process:
Click “Start Here”

Returning User:
Click “Log In.”
STEP 1: BEGIN A NEW FAFSA AT FAFSA.GOV

Choose the option that says: “I am a student and want to access the FAFSA form.”
STEP 1: BEGIN A NEW FAFSA AT FAFSA.GOV

Log in:
Click the blue link that says “Create an FSA ID.”

Next, click “Exit FAFSA Form” to go to the FSA ID website.
STEP 1: BEGIN A NEW FAFSA AT FAFSA.GOV

Log In with your FSA ID or Create an Account
Next: Create an “FSA ID”

Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID)
CREATE AN “FSA ID” (FEDERAL STUDENT AID IDENTIFICATION)

→ Click “Get Started”
CREATE AN “FSA ID” (FEDERAL STUDENT AID IDENTIFICATION)

→ Enter your name and Social Security Number exactly as they appear on your Social Security Card.
CREATE AN “FSA ID” (FEDERAL STUDENT AID IDENTIFICATION)

→ Create a Username and Password
→ Enter an email address that you check often.
→ Check spam/junk folder
A mailing address is optional, but you MUST provide a verified email address or mobile phone.

Indicate if you want to set-up Mobile Phone Account Recovery in case you are locked out.
CREATE AN “FSA ID” (FEDERAL STUDENT AID IDENTIFICATION)

→ Indicate how you would like to receive future communications. Email is recommended.

→ Indicate your preferred language.
→ Choose “Challenge Questions” and answers that can easily be remembered.
Confirm and verify that all the information is correct.
CREATE AN “FSA ID” (FEDERAL STUDENT AID IDENTIFICATION)

→ Only a verified email address OR verified mobile phone number is required, but if you provided both, you MUST verify both.
Write down these item somewhere safe so you don’t forget:

- FSA ID Username
- FSA ID Password
- Email Address & Password
- FSA ID Challenge Questions & Answers
Differences with the CADAA

• There is no FSA ID, but students do create a user account, with a username, password and “challenge questions.”

• Students will be asked questions to confirm their eligibility for the CADAA.
You’re Now Ready to Start
Your Online FAFSA
Login with your new FSA ID and begin the FAFSA
Once your FSA ID is created, return to the log-in page and start your application.

Enter your FSA ID Username or Verified Email Address or Mobile Number & your FSA ID Password.
• Read the Disclaimer and, if you agree, click “Accept”
Select the school year that you plan to attend college.

If you are applying for an upcoming summer session it is recommended that you complete applications for both years.
CREATE A SAVE KEY

• Create a “Save Key” (FAFSA only) in case you need to save your application and finish it later.
Make sure to write down your Save Key somewhere safe so you don’t forget

- FSA ID Username
- FSA ID Password
- Email Address & Password
- FSA ID Challenge Questions & Answers
- Save Key
The Introduction Page includes general information about the FAFSA.
COMPLETE THE SEVEN SECTIONS OF THE FAFSA

• Complete the seven sections listed as tabs at the top of the screen.

• For more information, click the question mark icon or the green owl icon for virtual assistance.
SECTION 1 OF THE FAFSA:

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS
FAFSA SECTION 1: STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

• Social Security Number (or ITIN on the CADAA)

• **Student Name:** Make sure that your name matches **exactly** as it appears on your Social Security Card. This is your legal name, not a nickname.

• **Date of Birth:** Enter carefully
FAFSA SECTION 1: STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

• Email Address: Double-check the email address to make sure there are no typos.

• Telephone number is optional.
• **Permanent Mailing Address:** This should be the same address you use on official government documents such as tax returns and voter registration cards.
• **State of Legal Residence:** If you select that you have lived in CA for at least 5 years, you may be eligible for California student financial aid (the Cal Grant).

• A separate application is not required.

• **Are you a U.S. Citizen?** If you select “No, but I am an eligible noncitizen”, you will be asked to provide your Alien Registration Number.
FAFSA SECTION 1: STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Student Education- Part I:

Select the option that best fits your *initial* educational goal.

- If you plan to attend community college, even if your ultimate educational goal is to obtain a bachelor’s degree, select: “associate degree.”
- If you are unsure of your plans, select “1st bachelor’s degree.” If you late decide to attend a community college, update your response.
- Do NOT select “other/undecided.”
- Do NOT select “2nd bachelor’s degree” unless you already have a bachelor’s degree.
Student Education - Part II:

What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2023-2024 school year?

If you took college courses while in high school, you are still considered a first-time college student and can select: “Never attended college/1st yr.”

Interested in work study? Answer Yes!
Driver’s License:
A driver’s license is not required to complete the application.
You will be asked: “Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?” → Answer YES.

[Note: This question is not on CADAA]

Foster youth can select “Other/unknown” for “Highest School Completed by Parent.”
SECTION 2 OF THE FAFSA:
SCHOOL SELECTION
FAFSA SECTION 2: SCHOOL SELECTION

Add Your High School

- Use the search function to find your high school.
- You will not be prompted to answer this question if you indicated that you received a GED or equivalent.
High School Search Results:

- Select your high school from the list and select Continue.
• Make sure that the high school listed is correct and select continue.
• Search for and select at least one and up to 10 colleges that you may want to attend.

• You can update or change school selections later if your plans change or you’re just not sure yet.

• You do not need to have applied for admission yet to the colleges you list.
FAFSA SECTION 2: SCHOOL SELECTION

- Select the college to add and click continue.
- Be sure to list each UC or CSU campus to which you are applying for admission separately in this section.
After the FAFSA has been processed and you have received your Student Aid Report (SAR) [or California Student Aid Report (Cal SAR) if the CADAA], you can submit the FAFSA to an additional 10 colleges, if necessary, by replacing the original set of 10 colleges.

- Your original set of 10 colleges will still receive your FAFSA information.

- Repeat this process as many times as necessary.
FAFSA SECTION 2: SCHOOL SELECTION

- Do NOT select “With Parent” as your housing plan if you plan to live with a foster parent, relative caregiver or legal guardian. Instead, select “Off-Campus.”

- The order in which you list the colleges does not make a difference in California.

- To add additional colleges, select “Add More Schools”
SECTION 3 OF THE FAFSA:

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 income only (and spouse if applicable)
- 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. (e.g., if you plan to start school in August 2023, will you be 24 or older as of January 1, 2023)
Marital Status:

Married students are considered independent and will not have to fill out the Parent sections.
If you have dependents, you will be considered “independent” on the FAFSA and will automatically skip the other dependency questions.
This screen only appears if you indicate that you have children or are married.

**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.
Current or former foster youth may qualify for “Independent Student Status” on the FAFSA if they can answer “Yes” to any part of either of these two questions.

“At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?

OR

“Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?”
How is Foster Youth Status Verified?

It should be automatically verified through a data match with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), however this doesn’t always happen.

Only submit a verification letter if the data match is unsuccessful or if requested by your college or university.

HOW TO GET A VERIFICATION OF FOSTER YOUTH STATUS:

- **Current foster youth**: Contact your county social worker or Independent Living Program (ILP or ILSP).

- **Former foster youth**: May also contact the Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsperson: 877-846-1602.
“On or after July 1st of the year prior to the award year, were you homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

For information on Independent Status for students experiencing homelessness see: jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-ca-homeless-youth/
- You are determined to be an Independent Student.
- You can answer “No” to skip questions about your parents.
- Answering “No” will not prevent you from getting financial aid.
If you do not qualify as an independent student based on any of the options, you can request to be considered independent based on a special circumstance.

Begin by selecting “I am unable to provide information about my parents”
Select “Continue” to confirm that your EFC will not be calculated and that you must follow up with the financial aid office.
Additional information will then be displayed that provides examples of situations that are not by themselves considered special circumstances.

Circumstances that may qualify include an abusive family, parental incarceration or when parents’ whereabouts are unknown.
Students are asked if they meet criteria to qualify for the Chafee Grant.
SECTION 6 OF THE FAFSA:

Student Financials

These instructions are for students with “Independent Status.” Dependent students will need to also provide parent information.
FAFSA uses income and tax information from the “prior-prior” year.

Ex. The 2023/2024 FAFSA, which opened on October 1, 2022, will ask for 2021 tax & income information.

Any asset information is based on the date the FAFSA is filed.
Option a).
If you select "Already Completed" IRS Income Tax Return

If you filed taxes for the selected year, select this option.
Select “Proceed to the IRS” to transfer your federal income tax return information directly into the FAFSA from the IRS using their “Data Retrieval Tool” (DRT).

If you don’t have a copy of your tax return, you can download a free transcript. See Visual Guide for more details.
If the student does not use the IRS DRT then they will be asked to manually respond to questions about income and tax information from their federal income tax return.

“Student Financial Information” page.
• **Student Leaving Your FAFSA Form** will display when going to the IRS website.

• Click “Proceed to the IRS” or “Skip IRS DRT and Complete Manually” if you would like to enter the information manually.
• A warning text appears as the IRS Data Retrieval Tool site is displayed.
• Click “OK”
The fields at the top are pre-filled based on FAFSA responses. The Social Security Number cannot be updated.

Provide the address that matches your Federal Income Tax Return for the requested year and click “Submit.”
FAFSA SECTION 6: STUDENT FINANCIALS

IRS Data Retrieval Tool, page 2:

- Check the “Transfer My Tax Information…” box and click “Transfer Now” to carry this data back into your FAFSA

OR

- Check the “Do Not Transfer…” box and click “Do Not Transfer” to discontinue use of the IRS DRT
“Student IRS Info” – After the data has been transferred from the IRS DRT it will show as “Transferred from the IRS.”
“Student Income from work”

If you do not use the IRS DRT, the FAFSA tells you on what line of your tax return you can find the information.

If asked, select No to the question “Did you file an IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1035 for 2020).”
Student Simplified Path Determination (part 1):
This question is used to determine if you can skip questions related to assets (the “simplified path”).

If you use the IRS DRT, this may show as “Transferred from the IRS”.

Note that if you did file a Schedule 1, you can still answer “no” if the only income type reported on the schedule 1 was unemployment benefits or other less common income types noted on the screen.

If “yes” or “don’t know,” you will be asked additional questions to determine if you qualify for the simplified path.

First, you will be asked if you are a dislocated worker.

NOTE: The CADAA does not ask about Schedule 1, only Dislocated Worker status.
FAFSA SECTION 6: STUDENT FINANCIALS

Student Simplified Path Determination (part 2):
If you select “no” or “Don’t know” in response to whether you are a dislocated worker, you will be asked if you receive certain government benefits.

If you do not receive any of these benefits, select “none of the above.”

You will then be asked questions about your assets, such as money in checking and savings accounts, on a later screen.
If you use the IRS DRT, your income tax for 2021 will show as “Transferred from the IRS” OR you must enter it manually.
“Student Questions for Tax Filers Only”

If you received college grants, scholarships or any payments from Americorps during the year for which you are reporting income that were included in the income reported on your taxes, you must enter the amount here to ensure that these do not count against your financial aid eligibility.

If you use the IRS DRT, some of these questions will show as “Transferred from the IRS.”
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.

If you received federal work-study, you must enter the information twice in the FAFSA so that it is subtracted when determining your total income.
You **DO NOT** have to report the following information as income earned from working, or as “Untaxed Income”:

→ Economic Impact Payments, or stimulus checks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
→ Emergency financial aid grants from the government in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. If you aren’t sure, talk to your financial aid office for assistance.
→ Extended Foster Care (AB 12) benefits— including SILP payments or payment from a THP NMD program (even if your SILP payment is sent directly to you). This also includes the infant supplement.
→ Welfare (CalWORKs) payments
→ Untaxed Social Security benefits
→ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – do not confuse with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
**Student Assets:**
If asked, click “Yes” to skip questions about your assets. It is not required.
What if your income has changed since 2021?

If your income has decreased since 2021 contact the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend. They can recalculate your financial aid award to reflect your current income.
Option b).
If you select “Will File” IRS Income Tax Return

Very few people will need to select this option. If you were required to file taxes, but missed the deadline, select this option.
If you select "Will file" a tax return, indicate what your filing status will be when you do file.

A message will appear to confirm that you have missed the deadline to file taxes, but still plan to file an income tax return.
Student IRS Info

Either use the prior year’s taxes if the information is similar to provide estimates or click “Income Estimator” for assistance estimating the adjusted gross income.
Option c).

If you select "Not Going to File" IRS Income Tax Return

If you did not have to file taxes, select this option. You will still be asked questions about any income you have earned or received.
Select “Not going to file” if you did not work or did not make enough money that requires you to file taxes for the requested year.

You may be required to submit a Verification of Non-Filing Letter to 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
There are many good reasons to file taxes!

- Most half-time and full-time students qualify for a cash-back education credit.
- Students who earned at least $1 may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Parenting students, whether they have worked or not, may qualify for the child tax credit.
- Any childcare expenses a parent pays for while they attend school or work can also be deducted on their taxes.
- Beginning in 2022, some foster youth will even qualify for an extra tax credit based on their experience in foster care!

Learn more at jbay.org/resources/tax prep-checklistfor-transition-age-youth-2/.

**TAX TIPS**

Unsure if you made enough money to file taxes?

Each year the income requirement is different. Ex. In 2021, if you were single, under 65 and your gross earned income and/or income from scholarship awards was at least $12,550, then you are legally required to file taxes.

**Gross income** = total income paid to you before any deductions or taxes were taken out.
FAFSA SECTION 6: STUDENT FINANCIALS

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.
FAFSA SECTION 6: STUDENT FINANCIALS

Additional Financial Info

As in the prior section, you will be asked if you paid child support, have earnings from a Cooperative Education Program or taxable earnings from programs such as Federal Work Study.
Student Untaxed Income- Part 2

These are the same questions as in the prior section, however You DO have to report Unemployment Benefits under untaxed income.
Student Assets:
If asked, click “Yes” to skip questions about your assets. It is not required.
On the CADAA, there is no IRS DRT.

Students who filed should bring their tax transcripts, 1099’s and W-2’s.

Students who filed or will file will be asked about their current assets.

The questions for “already filed” and “will file” are the same.

If someone selects “Not going to File”, they will not be asked any additional questions.
SECTION 7 OF THE FAFSA: SIGN & SUBMIT

The final section of the FAFSA!
FAFSA SECTION 7: SIGN & SUBMIT

- Review and check all the information from the application.

- You can print a copy for your records by clicking “Print This Page” at the bottom.
New! Answer a few demographic questions before you sign and submit and then click “Continue.” These questions do not affect your eligibility for aid.
Agreement of Terms—Read and check the box indicating agreement with the signing statement and click “Sign and Submit FAFSA Form.”

By signing this application electronically using your username and password, and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked to provide:

1. Information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
2. U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined up to $20,000, sent to prison, or both.

I, T. Perez, agree to the terms outlined above.
Signature Options

- If you logged into the FAFSA with an FSA ID, this page will not show and you will be directed to the “Congratulations” page [next slide].
FAFSA SECTION 7: SIGN & SUBMIT

• This is your Confirmation Page to show that your FAFSA is submitted!

• You’ll be notified via email in 3-5 days that it was processed.

• If you need to make any changes, you must wait until you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR).

• CADAA applicants will also see a confirmation page that will identify if there are any issues that need to be resolved and the CA Dream ID number.
AFTER THE FAFSA/CADAA

Filling out the FAFSA/CADAA is just the first step.
Once your FAFSA is processed successfully (within a few days), it will be indicated when you log back into the FAFSA.

You can make a correction by choosing “Edit FAFSA Form.”

Choosing “View Student Aid Report” will allow you to view your SAR. Learn more about the SAR on the next page.
The SAR [or Cal SAR on the CADAA] is not your award letter, but an estimate of what you MAY be eligible for. It includes the Data Release Number (DRN) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC). It may take a few days or weeks to receive your SAR.

It will include info if you’ve been selected for additional verification and how many years you have received federal aid towards the 6-year cap.
CADAA AB540 AFFIDAVIT

- CADAA applicants must submit a signed “Non-Resident Exemption” Request, also known as an “AB 540 Affidavit” in order to qualify for aid!

- 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.
APPLY FOR THE CHAFEE GRANT

This is a separate application from the FAFSA/CADAA
Chafee Grant Overview & Eligibility:

May receive up to $5,000 depending on financial need for up to 5 years (whether or not consecutive) until the age of 26.

Can be used at public or private qualified colleges, universities or career and technical schools (CTE) in California or out of state.

Must be a current or former foster youth who was a dependent or ward of the court at least one day between the ages of 16-18.

Must be enrolled at least half-time in college, have financial need and have not reached your 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.
Chafee Grant Application Tips

• A separate application is required for first time applicants in addition to the FAFSA/CADAA

• Go to chafee.csac.ca.gov to apply.

• Apply as soon as possible—ideally right after your FAFSA/CADAA!

• Planned School of Attendance refers to one college the student plans to attend. If the school isn’t listed, contact CSAC.

• It is common for students to be waitlisted for an entire school year before they are awarded.
CREATE A WEBGRANTS 4 STUDENTS ACCOUNT

Create this to view the status of your FAFSA/CADAA and Chafee Grant
Cal Grant – state financial aid

Students with dependent children or foster youth can get up to $6,000 for non-tuition costs.

Must have at least a 2.0 GPA unless enrolled in a qualified CTE program.

GPA must be submitted and matched to their FAFSA/CADAA.

Application deadline is now extended from March 2nd to September 2nd for all students attending community college.

Foster youth only can maintain for up to 8 years.

Foster youth only can apply up to age 26 if attending a 4-year university.
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
WebGrants 4 Students: mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

• Students will need to wait to create a WebGrants account until their FAFSA or CADAA is processed.

• It can take 1–2 weeks for the FAFSA to process and link to WebGrants.
TIP: Make sure your contact information is up to date so CSAC can reach you.
Check Your Award Status

Below are possible award status cards within WebGrants.

- Awarded
  - View CAR
  - Show Details

- Pending
  - To Do
  - Show Details

- Not Awarded
  - Reason
  - Show Details
## Example: Award Pending for Chafee Grant

### Chafee Grant Application Status (2019-2020)

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<th>Chafee Application</th>
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<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td>Received</td>
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### Department of Social Services Record

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<td></td>
<td>WebGrants To Do’s</td>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Check your award status and amount for the Cal Grant and Chafee Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Verify if there are any “pending” items or forms that still need to be completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Confirm that your school of attendance is accurate. This is referring to the college you plan to attend, not your high school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Verify that your GPA has been received. If not, contact your high school counselor or the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Enter your high school graduation date. This will become available on the 1st day of the month of your planned graduation month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>If you applied for Chafee Grant, check that your “Department of Social Services Record” is complete to verify your foster youth status. Note: This is only verified monthly so it may take up to 6 weeks before this is verified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students who fail to meet their institution’s SAP standards for two consecutive terms will lose eligibility for most financial aid.
Educate Students About SAP & How to Maintain Financial Aid

- Inform students about how SAP works
- Connect students to an academic counselor to ensure they are registering for the proper classes
- Advise that students talk to a counselor before dropping or withdrawing from any classes
- Inform students about the appeal process if they fail to meet SAP
- Connect students to resources early - be proactive, not reactive
Congrats! You Did It!

Remember:

• Continue to check your email and college student portal weekly.

• Respond promptly to any information request to provide verification in order to receive your financial aid.

• Update all your accounts if your address, email or phone number changes.

• Apply for other scholarships and campus support programs for foster youth.

• Check out the Financial Aid Guide for California Foster Youth to learn how to maintain your financial aid and educate youth about this process.

• Reapply for FAFSA/CADAA every year!
Free Help Completing the FAFSA

• Live Help built into FAFSA on the Web
• U.S. Department of Education’s toll-free hotline:
  • 1–800–4–FED–AID (1–800–433–3243) or
  • 1–334–523–2691
• Contact the U.S. Department of Education at: www.studentaid.gov/help-center/contact
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
Resource Portal:

- Campus support program contact info
- Financial Aid Resources
- Info on benefits for foster youth
- Planning & Applying to College
Financial Aid Resources at: jbay.org/resources/financial-aid-guide/

- Financial Aid Guide for CA Foster Youth (English & Spanish)
- Visual Guide for FAFSA and CADAA
- Today’s webinar
- After the FAFSA/CADAA Checklist (English & Spanish)
- NEW: Scholarship Resources for Current and Former Foster Youth
- NEW: Updated High School Counselor Foster Youth FAFSA/CADAA Challenge Toolkit
- IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter Guidance
FAFSA Demo Site:

fafsademo.test.ed.gov/webdemo.htm