

IMMIGRANT STUDENT FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES



Immigrant students residing in Indiana may need extra support in navigating financial aid resources and processes when pursuing higher education.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protects qualified undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children from deportation and allows them to obtain a work permit. DACA must be renewed every two years. DACA recipients are noncitizens who are ineligible to receive financial aid for higher education from the federal government and the state of Indiana.



Citizenship Requirements for State Financial Aid and 21st Century Scholars

Students must be one of the following to receive Indiana financial aid, including the 21st Century Scholarship:

- U.S. citizen
- U.S. national (see full description at StudentAid.gov)
- U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I-551 or I-551C (Alien Registration Receipt Card)

Students are considered eligible noncitizens and able to claim federal financial aid if they have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following designations:

- Refugee
- Asylum Granted
- Indefinite Parole and/or Humanitarian Parole
- Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Status Pending
- Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)

Students are NOT considered eligible noncitizens if they have one of the following designations:

- Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence (I-171 or I-464)
- F-1 or F-2 nonimmigrant student visa, or on a J-1 or J-2 nonimmigrant Exchange Visitor Visa
- G series visa (pertaining to international organizations)



FAQ

If I am a DACA recipient, do I need to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

In most cases, financial aid eligibility will be determined by the information that you enter into the FAFSA but completing the FAFSA may not be necessary for the type of financial aid that you are trying to obtain. Check with your higher education institution or school counselor to find out if filing the FAFSA is required.

If I am NOT an eligible noncitizen, am I still able to receive federal student aid?

No, if you are not an eligible noncitizen, you are not able to receive U.S. federal student aid. Although, you can still explore other financial aid options by:

- Checking with your country's embassy/government office or a consulate in the U.S. to see what they offer.
- Using the U.S. Department of Labor's free online scholarship search.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>

- Inquiring with the postsecondary program you plan to attend about whether they offer any aid for students like you.
- Exploring the Education USA website.

<https://educationusa.state.gov/>

If I am an undocumented immigrant or DACA student, am I still eligible for in-state tuition in Indiana?

Under a state law passed in 2011, undocumented students and DACA students cannot receive in-state tuition in Indiana. However, some colleges and universities may allow DACA students to receive in-state tuition if they meet Indiana's standard residency requirements.

Do I need a Social Security Number (SSN) to complete the FAFSA?

Yes, you need an SSN to complete the FAFSA.

Do my parents' citizenship or immigration status affect my eligibility for aid?

No, your parent's citizenship or immigration status does not affect your eligibility for aid.

Sources:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens#daca-eligibility>
<https://learnmoreindiana.org/cost/can-i-get-help-paying-for-college/indiana-scholarships/>

Financial Aid Resources



Understanding Aid Eligibility Requirements for Non-US citizens

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens#daca-eligibility>

Padres Estrellas

Padres Estrellas – which translates to “Star Parents” – works with community organizations focused on empowering Hoosier Hispanic and Latino communities to provide college and career support to students and families across the state.



Learn More about Padres Estrellas

<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars/alumni-partners/padresestrellas/>

Indiana based scholarships and organizations for undocumented students



Hispanic Scholarship Fund

<https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>



Indiana Latino Institute

<http://indianalatinoinstitute.org/>



Indiana Community Foundations

<https://www.icindiana.org/our-programs/lecsp/indiana-community-foundations/>

Indiana's standard residency requirements



<https://www.in.gov/che/state-financial-aid/state-financial-aid-general-information/>