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EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION

 **ILLINOIS** DREAM  
ACT ...



A COUNSELOR'S GUIDE  
OF RESOURCES OF UNDOCUMENTED  
**STUDENTS**  



*Governor Pat Quinn signs the Illinois DREAM Act into law on August 1, 2011, at Chicago's Benito Juarez High School.*



## **An Undocumented Student's Guide to College**

*Updated in 2015*

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# 01 INTRODUCTION



The Urban Institute estimates that 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools every year. College admissions, financial aid, and the enrollment process can be difficult to navigate as an undocumented student, so many students turn to their school counselors for advice. This purpose of this guide is to provide counselors with knowledge and resources to help undocumented students access higher education in the United States.

## The Importance of the Illinois DREAM Act

**The Illinois DREAM Act is a significant step forward for undocumented students.** Although the Act does not provide a legal pathway to citizenship, it recognizes the right of undocumented youth to invest in their education. The Act attempts to help undocumented students access information, resources, and financial aid in their pursuit of higher education. In addition, the Act requires that high school college counselors be better trained to help undocumented students reach their educational goals.

**Education is a right for all people, regardless of their status.** In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* that public schools are prohibited from denying immigrant students access to a public K-12 education. Public schools and school personnel are also prohibited from adopting policies or taking actions that deny students access to education based on their immigration status.

**In 2003, the State of Illinois passed bill HB 60, making in-state tuition available for undocumented youth at public colleges and universities.** In Illinois, students have a right to go to college, regardless of their immigration status.

It is important to remember that these educational opportunities have not always been open to undocumented youth, and they are still not open everywhere in the United States. Many states remain hostile towards undocumented immigrants. As of 2015, sixteen states extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented youth through state legislation. It is your

role as a counselor to make sure that these educational rights and earned opportunities are respected.

## Your Role as a Trusted Mentor and Ally

To your undocumented students you are more than a school counselor; you are their ally. You are instrumental in helping them reach their educational goals. As a first step towards developing your students' trust, **we recommend using care and discretion in your communication.** For example, instead of using the term "illegal immigrant," simply say "undocumented." No human being is illegal and use of the term is both dehumanizing and humiliating. More cues for how to handle sensitive subjects with undocumented students can be found on page 12. Encourage your colleagues and the student body in general to adopt this language, too.

It is also important to remember that **confidentiality is key.** When undocumented students come out to you about their immigration status, understand that they are putting a great deal of trust in you. While you cannot legally ask students about their status, you can reassure them that your office is an open and safe space to talk and that anything they share with you will remain private.

When students reveal their status to you, listen to them but **do not offer legal advice.** Doing so can put your career and your student at risk. Instead, focus on creating a plan to help your student get into college.

The process of pursuing higher education can be frustrating for undocumented students, but it CAN be done.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

According to the Pew Hispanic Center, out of the 18 to 24 year olds who have graduated from high school, only **49% of undocumented students** have gone on to pursue a college degree compared to **71% of U.S.-born students.**

Thank you for working to help all students achieve their educational goals. We hope this guide gives you valuable insight into working with undocumented students and knowledge about what you can do to best serve their specialized needs. Please note that, though we have tried our best to gather useful information, we may not have answered all of the questions you have. Let us know if there is anything more that you would like us to address, or if you would like to share any tips that you have learned from your own personal experience. Good luck!

# 02 HB 60 & THE ILLINOIS DREAM ACT: THE FACTS

## HB 60: In-State Tuition

Passed in May 2003, HB 60 bill was a significant win for young immigrants in Illinois. The bill qualifies eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates when attending public Illinois colleges or universities.

### In order to be eligible for HB 60 in-state tuition rates, students must meet the following requirements:

1. The student has resided with her/her parent or guardian while attending public or private high school in Illinois.
2. The student has graduated from a public or private high school in Illinois or received a GED from Illinois.
3. The student has attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years prior to graduating from high school or receiving the GED.
4. For individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States, the student provides the university with an affidavit stating his/her intention to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States as soon as he/she is eligible to do so. [See Appendix A]

Unfortunately, federal financial aid is unavailable for undocumented students. Sixteen states have passed laws that offer in-state tuition rates to undocumented students. Additionally, Oklahoma and Rhode Island, extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through decisions by their local Board of Regents.

### States that offer in-state tuition rates for undocumented students:

California • Colorado • Connecticut • Florida • Illinois • Kansas • Maryland • Minnesota • Nebraska • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • Oregon • Texas • Utah • Washington

## Illinois DREAM Act: The Facts

This legislation makes Illinois the first state in the country to create a private scholarship fund for undocumented youth. The Act also eases the path to higher education for undocumented youth, 65% of whom come from households that earn 200% under the poverty line. While not comparable to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the passage of the bill is an incredible victory that lays a foundation for other states to follow.

The Illinois DREAM Act:

- **Allows anyone with a taxpayer number, including undocumented students, to participate in the State Treasurer's College Savings Pool and the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan.** Both of these programs allow families of DREAM youths to plan ahead and invest and save for their children's college education. [See page 6]
- **Requires high school college counselors to be better prepared to advise undocumented students and children of immigrants on their access to higher education.** This provision ensures that undocumented students receive correct information about opportunities available to them after high school. High school college counselors will receive additional training incorporated into existing training courses.
- **Establishes the Illinois DREAM Fund to provide scholarships to undocumented students.** The scholarships are funded entirely by contributions from private donors and organizations.

### In order to qualify for the benefits of the Illinois DREAM Act, students must meet the following requirements:

1. The student has resided with her/her parent or guardian while attending public or private high school in Illinois.
2. The student has attended public or private school in Illinois for at least 3 years and received a high school diploma or GED from Illinois.
3. The student has at least one parent who immigrated to the United States.

As mentioned on the previous page, the Illinois DREAM Act makes certain college savings programs available to immigrant youths. Listed below are three college savings programs accessible to undocumented students in Illinois.

### **Illinois State Treasurer's College Savings Pool**

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office administers two college savings plans available to immigrant youth: **Bright Start** and **Bright Directions**.

The Bright Start and Bright Directions programs are fairly similar: they both allow families of undocumented students to save money to help fund their children's future higher education. Once the account has been set up, the family can start paying into it over time. When the student enters college, he or she can then withdraw from the account to pay for tuition.

Unlike Bright Start, the Bright Directions program allows families to have more flexibility with regard to how they wish to invest their money and according to their personal risk tolerance.

### **Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan**

**College Illinois!** is a college savings program for prepaid college tuition run by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

The College Illinois! program allows an undocumented student's family to negotiate a set tuition with a designated college or university in Illinois. The student's family then sets up an account with College Illinois! and makes monthly payments into it, which are transferred directly to the designated college or university. In this way, families can prepay for their children's future higher education at today's tuition price.

**Note:** Undocumented immigrants do not need to have a Social Security Number (SSN) to access these college savings and prepaid tuition programs, but they do require their own Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). Anyone who has a valid ITIN issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) can open an account and draw upon it to pay for college.

The ITIN is a nine-digit number beginning with the digit '9' and formatted like the SSN (i.e. 9XX-XX-XXXX). It is used for tax purposes for certain residents, nonresidents, their spouses, and their dependents. **Remember, an ITIN cannot be used for employment or for FAFSA.**

If your student does not already have an ITIN, he/she can obtain one by filling out the W-7 IRS form. This form can be downloaded online at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw7.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw7.pdf). A guide to the ITIN application is available on the IRS website [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

#### **>> Bright Start**

[www.brightstartsavings.com](http://www.brightstartsavings.com)  
PO Box 5288  
Denver, CO 80217  
1.800.432.7444

#### **>> Bright Directions**

[www.brightdirections.com](http://www.brightdirections.com)  
PO Box 82623  
Lincoln, NE 68501  
866.722.7283

#### **>> College Illinois!**

[www.collegeillinois.org](http://www.collegeillinois.org)  
ISAC.529info@isac.illinois.gov  
529 Prepaid Tuition Program  
PO Box 19291  
Springfield, IL 62794



*At a Chicago New Americans Rally on April 30, 2011 in support of the Illinois DREAM Act.*

# 03

## DACA: THE FACTS

### What is DACA?

The **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program was created in 2012 by President Obama. As a result of DACA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will no longer deport certain undocumented youth who arrived in the United States as children.

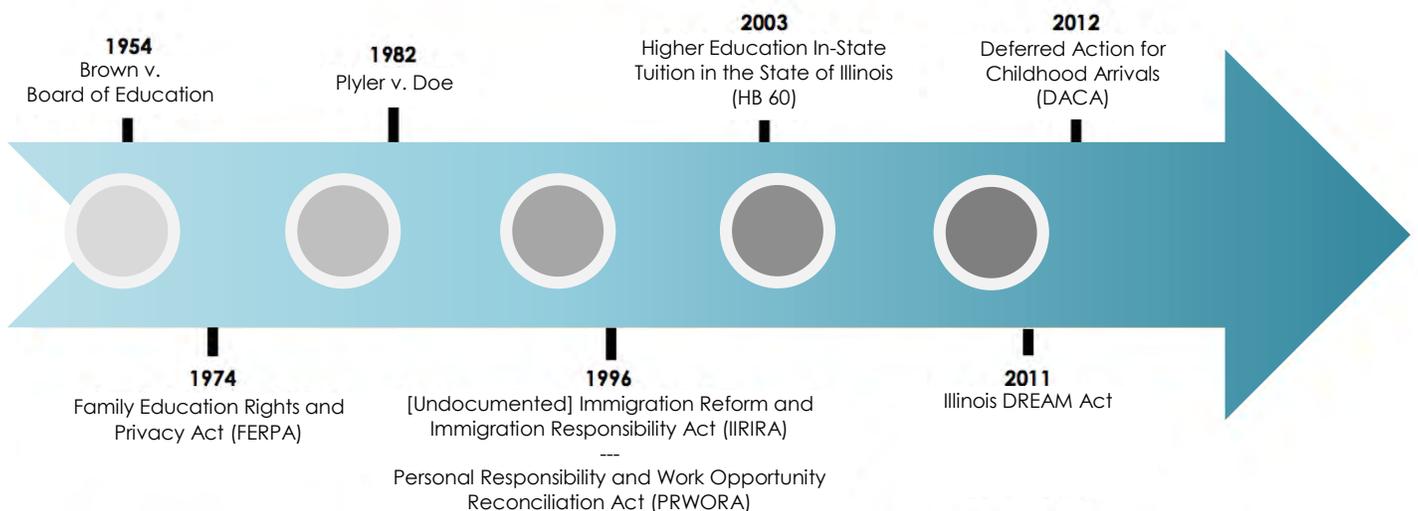
DACA grants eligible undocumented youth the right to lawfully reside within the U.S. It is important to remember that **DACA is temporary and does not provide a path to permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship**. Those who are accepted into DACA are issued a two-year permit. At the end of the two years, an undocumented youth may apply to renew the permit if he or she wishes to extend his or her stay in the country.

**In Illinois, both DACA recipients and other undocumented immigrants are able to apply for scholarships from the Illinois DREAM Fund**, provided they meet the requirements outlined on page 5.

#### In order to be eligible for DACA, an undocumented youth must meet the following requirements:

1. The individual arrived in the U.S. before his/her sixteenth birthday.
2. The individual was under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012.
3. The individual has continuously lived in the U.S. since June 15, 2007.
4. The individual was present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making his/her application for DACA.
5. The individual had no lawful status on June 15, 2012.
6. The individual is currently in school, has graduated from high school or received a GED certificate, or is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces or Coast Guard of the United States.
7. The individual has not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanor offenses.
8. The individual does not pose a threat to national security or public safety.

### IMMIGRANT SENSITIVE LAWS



## What's Next?

In November 2014, President Obama announced two new immigration initiatives that would allow a greater number of undocumented immigrants to temporarily and lawfully reside in the United States without fear of deportation. The two programs Obama proposed were **expanded DACA** and **DAPA**.

### 1. Expanded DACA

Obama's plan to expand DACA is based on easing the requirements used to determine eligibility to the program.

Specifically, Obama proposed

1. Allowing undocumented immigrants of any age, who entered the U.S. before turning 16 and who have lived continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 2010, to apply for DACA.
2. Extending the period of deferred action granted by DACA from two to three years.

### 2. DAPA

The **Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)** program would grant undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents the right to temporarily and legally reside in the United States.

Under DAPA, eligible undocumented immigrants would receive a renewable three-year permit allowing them to live and work in the country.

**In order to qualify for DAPA, undocumented immigrants would have to meet the following requirements:**

1. The individual is the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
2. The individual has lived continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
3. The individual was present in the U.S. on November 20, 2014.
4. The individual had no lawful immigration status on November 20, 2014.
5. The individual has not been convicted of certain criminal offenses, including any felonies and some misdemeanors.

## A Temporary Setback

President Obama initially planned to launch the expanded DACA program on February 18, 2015, and the DAPA program in mid-May 2015. It is estimated that the two programs combined would have given approximately 5 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States protection from deportation.

However, on February 16, 2015, a federal judge in Texas, Andrew S. Hanen, issued an injunction to temporarily block President Obama's executive action on immigration.

Judge Hanen, siding with officials from 26 states, ruled that President Obama overstepped his authority when he took the November 2014 action without Congressional approval.

As a result of Judge Hanen's injunction, neither expanded DACA nor DAPA have started yet. Fortunately, according to many legal experts, the temporary block on President Obama's deferred action programs is unlikely to hold up for long.

Judge Hanen's ruling is currently being appealed by the Obama administration.

**Note:** Judge Hanen's injunction has no effect on the original DACA program.

**Students may still request DACA if they meet the requirements outlined on page 7.**



*Students and supporters joined ICIRR at a press conference after the Illinois DREAM Act passed the House.*

# 04 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## 1. Can a student move to Illinois and benefit from the Illinois DREAM Act?

No, in order to qualify for the Illinois DREAM Act a student must have attended school for at least three years in Illinois and received the equivalent of a high school diploma or GED.

## 2. Does the Illinois DREAM Act provide a path to citizenship?

No, the Illinois DREAM Act does not provide a path to citizenship because citizenship laws are a federal matter. Nor does DACA provide a path to citizenship; however, if your student receives deferred action, he/she is granted the right to reside in the U.S. lawfully for a renewable two-year period.

The federal DREAM Act, which would provide undocumented youth with a path to citizenship if they complete two years of college or military service, was first brought to the Senate in 2001 by Senators Dick Durbin of Illinois and Orrin Hatch of Utah. Since then, the bill has been reintroduced several times but has yet to pass. As an interim solution, President Obama created the DACA program in 2012.

## 3. When can students apply to the Illinois DREAM Fund for scholarships?

Past application cycles have opened in early December and closed in mid-March. There is currently no information about dates for future application cycles, so be sure to visit the Illinois DREAM Fund website ([www.illinoisdreamfund.org](http://www.illinoisdreamfund.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ILDREAMFund](http://www.facebook.com/ILDREAMFund)) for updates.

The Illinois DREAM Fund currently only provides scholarships for undergraduate studies and does not fund graduate and PhD programs.

## 4. If a student qualifies for the Illinois DREAM Act and/or DACA, does he/she also qualify to receive state funding for higher education in Illinois?

No, undocumented youth are currently ineligible for state funded aid in Illinois.

**However, federal law allows individual state legislatures to choose whether or not to extend state funding for higher education to undocumented immigrants.** So far only California, Texas, Minnesota, New Mexico, and

Washington offer financial aid to their undocumented students.

Advocacy efforts are currently underway in Illinois as community members and organizations are exploring ways to expand state aid to undocumented students.

## 5. Does applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) make a student less safe?

ITINs are issued by the IRS to individuals who do not qualify for a Social Security Number (SSN), such as undocumented immigrants and foreign investors. The IRS does not share the information they gather with the Department of Homeland Security. Therefore, applying for an ITIN will not compromise a student's safety.

## 6. Do students need a SSN/ITIN to apply for a scholarship from the Illinois DREAM Fund?

No, the application for scholarships from the Illinois DREAM Fund does not require students to provide a SSN or ITIN.

However, in order to enroll in college savings programs in Illinois – including Bright Start, Bright Directions, and College Illinois! – students and their parents must have either an ITIN or SSN.

**Note:** DACA recipients may be eligible to apply for a SSN. For more information, visit: [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deferred\\_action.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deferred_action.pdf).

## 7. Can a student still apply for DACA?

Students may request DACA if they meet the requirements for the original program outlined on page 7.

Due to a federal court order, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will not begin accepting requests for the expanded DACA program until further notice. We recommend checking the USCIS website ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)) regularly for updates on the status of the program.

## 8. Does a student need to come out as undocumented in order to be eligible for resources available to undocumented youth?

No, students do not need to reveal their immigration status to access resources catered towards undocumented youths.

That said, undocumented students who confide in teachers and counselors that they trust have access to more resources and information than those who stay quiet.

Counselors should be knowledgeable and work hard to remain updated on resources that are available to undocumented students.

### 9. What if a financial aid/admissions advisor asks my student to fill out the FAFSA?

If a financial aid/admissions advisor asks your student to fill out the FAFSA and he/she does not have a social security number, he/she can fill it out **but SHOULD NOT send it to the government.**

Remember, **undocumented students do not qualify for federal aid and submitting FAFSA forms with false information is against the law.**

### 10. A public college/university has informed me that it does not accept undocumented students. Is this correct?

No, undocumented students are not prohibited from attending public colleges and universities in the State of Illinois. Undocumented students in Illinois may even qualify for in-state tuition or private scholarships to fund their higher education.

If your student runs into any difficulties related to his/her immigration status when applying to public colleges or universities in Illinois, we encourage you to contact one of the organizations listed in **Appendix C** for more resources and information.



ICIRR Leaders with Illinois DREAM Act House Sponsor Representative Edward Acevedo.

If you have any additional questions that are not answered by this guide, please email [ftsao@icirr.org](mailto:ftsao@icirr.org).



# 05 THE COUNSELOR'S ROLE



## Understanding Undocumented Students

An undocumented student is a foreign national who entered the U.S.

- ❖ Without inspection or with fraudulent documents.
- ❖ As a nonimmigrant, but overstayed the length of his/her visa.

Most undocumented students, though they may have grown up in the U.S. and may think of the country as their home, have no legal path to citizenship. Some undocumented students may not even have known about their immigration status until they began the college application process.

### College-bound undocumented students

- ❖ **Do not qualify for federal aid, even if their parents pay taxes.**
- ❖ **May not qualify for state-based financial aid.** Undocumented youth are currently ineligible for state-based financial aid in Illinois. Federal law allows states to choose whether to extend financial aid to undocumented students. To date, only five states have chosen to do so: California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington.
- ❖ **In some cases are not able to work legally in the U.S. to fund their education.** DACA recipients, however, can apply for two-year renewable work permits.
- ❖ **May not be eligible for paid internships or fellowships.** Again, DACA recipients can apply for two-year renewable work permits.
- ❖ **Should not pursue career paths that will require licensing or background checks.**

## Working with Undocumented Students

### 1. Keep An Open Mind & An Open Office

Set your students at ease by signaling your openness to discuss immigration status. Put up inspirational posters and publications catered towards undocumented students and their access to higher education in the U.S. Do not interrogate students about their status or assume that students are undocumented; instead, be patient and wait for students to confide in you.

### 2. Be Inclusive

Include information for undocumented students in all presentations and publications rather than creating separate materials for them. Otherwise, undocumented students may feel isolated and demoralized. Make it known that you are trained to work with different types of students, including the undocumented.

### 3. Know What You're Talking About

Be knowledgeable about specific government and college admission policies affecting undocumented students in Illinois and across the country. Speak with undocumented students who have already been through the college application process and ask them for advice on how to help students in their situation.

### 4. Research Private Scholarships

Make a list of private sponsors and scholarships that do not require applicants to be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. If you know of any local scholarships in your school or community, encourage those managing the scholarship to allow undocumented students to apply, too.

### 5. Help Your Students Build Lasting Networks

Encourage undocumented students to form support networks to lean on during the college application process and after. Support networks may be composed of other undocumented students, older undocumented students who can serve as role models, and mentors to whom students can turn to for advice.

### 6. Be Supportive & Encouraging

It is perfectly fine to let students know about the challenges they may face because of their immigration status; nevertheless, reassure them that these challenges CAN be overcome. Remind them that thousands of undocumented students have successfully pursued a college education.

### 7. Don't Transfer Your Fears

It is your responsibility to create a safe environment for your students, while giving them the freedom to choose how to handle their personal affairs. If one of your students chooses to come out as undocumented, don't tell him or her to stop talking about his status in public.

### 8. Be An Advocate For Your Students

Support the federal DREAM Act and other state-based legislation that work to improve the situation for undocumented youth in Illinois and across the U.S. Within your school, take the lead on initiatives to help undocumented students by, for example, creating an in-house scholarship for college or starting a club to fight for immigrant rights.

## Talking to Undocumented Students about Sensitive Subjects

What NOT to Say	What to Say
"Going to college isn't really an option for you."	Applying to and enrolling in college will be challenging, but it IS possible. Thousands of other talented, hard-working undocumented students have already graduated from college.
"You're not going to be able to get any money for college."	While you are not eligible to receive federal financial aid, you may be eligible for in-state tuition as well as private scholarships that will ease your financial burden as you pursue a college degree.
"Why don't you just legalize?"	Have you spoken with an immigration attorney to find out if you can legalize? There may be immigration remedies that you and your family are not currently aware of.
"Even if you get a college degree, you're never going to be able to work legally."	Although a college degree will not change your immigration status, it will open up many opportunities for you once you legalize or obtain a work permit. In addition, a college degree may even open up opportunities for you abroad if you should choose to leave the country.
"Why don't you go back home and get a degree?"	If you have family and connections in another country, you may consider pursuing educational opportunities outside the United States. Remember, however, that this would mean being separated from your family and friends in the U.S. and you may be barred from returning to the U.S. for 10 years.
"In order to apply to college, you're going to have to reveal everything."	When applying to college, you may find it helpful to be honest about your immigration status. Though this may be scary to you and your family, rest assured that under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), colleges and universities are prohibited from sharing your personal information. Also remember when filling out applications that it is against the law to lie about your immigration status, or use a SSN or ITIN that is not your own.



Immigrant Youth College Fair in Cicero in 2010 hosted by the Immigrant Youth Justice League and Nuestra Voz.

### The Importance of Involving Family

It is important to keep parents of undocumented students in the loop about their child's plans for college. Parents of undocumented students may not fully understand what is involved in the college application process and may be fearful that going to college will put their child's safety at risk.

Schedule meetings with parents of undocumented students and remind them that your office is a safe and open space where everything that is discussed will remain private. Try reassuring parents by explaining the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**, which protects a student's privacy and prohibits colleges and universities from sharing information they gather with other organizations like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Make it known to parents that thousands of undocumented students have successfully pursued college degrees in the U.S, and many of them were awarded private scholarships or financial aid to help them achieve their educational goals.

Connect undocumented students and their families to additional community support services, such as local organizations in Illinois or other undocumented students who are either in or have already graduated from college. See **Appendix C** at the end of this guide for examples of community resources for immigrants in Illinois.

# 06 RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE



## The FAFSA & Applications for Financial Aid

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is used by most colleges and universities in the U.S. to determine a student's eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid programs.

**Undocumented students do not qualify for federally funded scholarships and grants.** Undocumented students include DACA recipients and Dreamers. If you are working with an undocumented student, make sure he/she **DOES NOT**

- ❖ Submit a FAFSA form to the government.
- ❖ Provide any false information on applications for college, university, or financial aid.

**What determines eligibility for state and federal financial aid programs is the immigration status of the student, and NOT that of his or her parents.** Therefore, if a student is a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident but one of more of his or her parents is undocumented, the student is eligible for federal student aid.

- ❖ Undocumented parents should use 000-00-0000 as their SSN on the FAFSA. The FAFSA will be rejected if parents submit an ITIN.
- ❖ Undocumented parents cannot request a PIN number to sign the FAFSA electronically. They must print the application, sign it, and send it by mail.

Remember:

- ❖ College and university applications will never require students to provide a SSN; **it is optional.**
- ❖ A SSN **is** required to complete the FAFSA.
- ❖ It is against the law for people to use a SSN that is not their own or is false.

Be aware that some private scholarships may ask students to submit a FAFSA to prove financial need. Private scholarships ask this because the FAFSA may be their only method of measuring financial aid. In this situation, tell your student to print out the application and send it to the private scholarship directly; he or she **SHOULD NOT send a copy to the government.**

In general, advise your student to consult an admissions officer from the college or university that he or she is applying to for advice before submitting any documentation.

## Scholarships

### 1. The Illinois DREAM Fund

The Illinois DREAM Fund provides scholarships to eligible undocumented students in Illinois (see page 5). Raised entirely through private and in-kind donations, the Illinois DREAM Fund is currently only used to fund undergraduate degrees from colleges and universities in Illinois and across the United States.

To qualify for a scholarship, applicants must be either incoming freshman or current undergraduates at a college or university in the U.S. In addition, applicants must have a GPA of at least 2.5 out of 4.0. Finally, applicants must complete an electronic application, which can be accessed at: **[www.illinoisdreamfund.org/apply-now.html](http://www.illinoisdreamfund.org/apply-now.html)**. Typically, the application opens in early December and closes in mid-March.

Scholarships from the Illinois DREAM Fund can be used to cover the cost of tuition as well as institutional fees, books, student health insurance, and any other educational expenses that students may have.

### 2. Private Scholarships

Many private scholarships are available to undocumented students living in Illinois. These scholarships tend to be highly competitive. It is important that students maintain high grades and participate in extra-curricular activities while in high school so that they can distinguish themselves from other applicants when applying for scholarships.

For more information about private scholarships available to undocumented students, consult the following database: **[www.icirr.org/content/immigrant-student-scholarship-guide](http://www.icirr.org/content/immigrant-student-scholarship-guide)**.

### 3. Private Colleges and Universities

Many private schools are able to provide need-based scholarships and financial aid to students, irrespective of their immigration status.

In contrast, public colleges and universities, for the most part, can only provide merit-based scholarships to undocumented students who must compete for the scholarships with the rest of the student body on the basis of their academic achievements and talents.

Tell your students to ask the colleges where they are applying if they offer private scholarships and what the requirements for eligibility are. Students could even ask about what resources are available to undocumented applicants.

See **Appendix B** for more specific information about merit-based and need-based assistance offered at colleges and universities in Illinois.

#### 4. Community Scholarships

Many communities have created their own scholarships to cover the cost of tuition or books to help college students in the neighborhood. For example, the Dreamers Unidos Scholarship was created by residents in Little Village and staff from Enlace Chicago to provide financial assistance to graduating seniors from two local high schools ([www.dreamersunidos.org](http://www.dreamersunidos.org)).

Help your students research different community centers, churches, and local schools to find out if they offer scholarships. Remind students to apply to as many scholarships as possible, no matter how much (or little) the financial award, because scholarship money adds up quickly!

### Scholarship Applications: Tips for Students

#### List your accomplishments

Before you start, make a list of your accomplishments so that you can refer to clear, concrete examples of your strengths in your essays.

#### Research the scholarship

Research the individual or institution offering the scholarship to find out what they look for in applicants. Clearly articulate these qualities in your essays to show that you are an ideal and deserving candidate.

#### Get to the point!

Answer questions clearly and directly. Adhere to the word and page limits. You may choose to mention your immigration status and the obstacles you had to overcome because of it or explain that you are ineligible for federal aid for higher education.

#### Comb through and edit

Proofread your essays: spelling mistakes and bad grammar are unacceptable. Ask at least two people to read through your work before sending it in.

#### Prepare for interviews

Many private scholarships require face-to-face interviews with their applicants. It is a good idea to start practicing public speaking and interview techniques.

#### Find an advocate to help you

Many scholarships require letters of recommendation for teachers or counselors. Make sure that whomever you ask knows you well and understands your immigration situation.

#### Is there an appeal process?

If you are awarded a scholarship but the award money is not enough to cover your costs, be aware that some scholarships have an appeal process in which you may receive additional aid under special circumstances.

## Support Equal Opportunity for State Financial Aid at Public Institutions

At the moment, undocumented youth are not eligible for state-based financial aid in Illinois. Consequently, public colleges and universities in Illinois cannot offer state-funded scholarships to undocumented students.

However, advocacy efforts are currently underway to extend state financial aid to many residents of Illinois – including undocumented immigrants. This measure would grant 60,000 youth access to state funding as they pursue higher education.

Federal law allows individual state legislatures to choose whether to extend state financial aid to undocumented youth. Unfortunately, to date only five states have chosen to do so: California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington.

Contact an organization near you to find out how **you** can join advocacy efforts in Illinois to **help undocumented students achieve their educational goals, support their families, and give back to society**. (See Appendix C)



At an Immigrant Youth Justice League rally in Chicago in 2010. Contact an organization near you and get involved!

## Average Budget For Undergraduates By Institution Type

Institution Type	Tuition and Fees	Room & Board	Books & Supplies	Transportation & Personal Expenses	Total (average/per year)
Public Two-Year In-District College	\$3,562	--	\$1,146	\$3,242	<b>\$7,949</b>
Public Two-Year Out-of-State College	\$3,564	\$7,705	\$1,146	\$3,242	<b>\$15,657</b>
Public Four-Year In-State College	\$9,139	\$9,804	\$1,146	\$3,242	<b>\$23,331</b>
Public Four-Year Out-of-State College	\$22,958	\$9,804	\$1,146	\$3,242	<b>\$37,150</b>

Sources:

1. College Board, [www.trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-sector-state-time](http://www.trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-sector-state-time).
2. CollegeDATA, [www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content\\_payarticle\\_tpl.html?articleId=10064](http://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_payarticle_tpl.html?articleId=10064).

## Financial Aid Options

Type of Aid	U.S. Citizen	Legal Permanent Resident	Visa Holder	DACA Recipient	Undocumented
Federal Aid	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
State Aid	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
In-State Tuition	Yes, if students meet Illinois residency requirements.	Yes, if students meet Illinois residency requirements.	Depends on student's visa type. Not eligible for HB 60.	Yes, if eligible under HB 60.	Yes, if eligible under HB 60.
Government Loans	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Private Loans	Yes	Yes	Yes, but need U.S. citizen or permanent resident cosigner.	Yes, but need U.S. citizen or permanent resident cosigner.	Yes, but need U.S. citizen or permanent resident cosigner.
Government Grants	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Institutional Aid	Yes	Yes	Depends on student's visa type and the school he/she attends.	Depends on school student attends.	Depends on school student attends.
Federal Work-Study	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Private Scholarships	Depends on eligibility requirements.	Depends on eligibility requirements.	Depends on eligibility requirements.	Depends on eligibility requirements.	Depends on eligibility requirements.

## Questions to Ask Admissions Officers & Financial Aid Advisors

Speaking directly with an admissions officer or financial aid advisor will be extremely valuable to you and your student. When calling an admissions or financial aid office, ask if there is a member of staff who specializes in working with undocumented students. Listed below are some questions you or your student may want to ask:

### Admissions:

- ❖ How should an undocumented student respond to the citizenship question on your application?
- ❖ Should an undocumented student leave the SSN field blank or enter zeros?
- ❖ Can students leave fields blank on your online application or will they need to submit a paper application?

### Financial Aid:

- ❖ Are undocumented students eligible for any institutional financial aid? If so, are there any additional forms they need to complete?
- ❖ Do you offer fee or tuition waivers and if so how may students apply for them?
- ❖ How can students qualify for in-state tuition?

### Scholarships:

- ❖ Do you offer institutional scholarships for undocumented students? How about private scholarships?
- ❖ What qualifications are needed to apply to these scholarships? Should students submit any additional forms?
- ❖ If a student is awarded a scholarship, what must he/she do to keep it? Will he/she lose the scholarship as a result of poor grades?
- ❖ Are these scholarships valid for the entire duration a student is enrolled at your school? What if a student takes longer than four years to graduate?
- ❖ Do you have any scholarships for transfer students?

### Programs of Study:

- ❖ Are there any majors that are unavailable to undocumented students because of their immigration status?
- ❖ Does applying to this school/major require a background check?
- ❖ After graduation, can undocumented students work with this type of degree? Or would they need to get a background check, certificate, or state licensure that they would be ineligible for because of their immigration status?

## Further Alternatives for Funding

Many undocumented students get creative when searching for alternative ways to pay for college. Here are some examples of what students do to ease their financial burden:

» **Crowdfunding** Online crowdfunding websites are useful for targeting a large number of people at one time. Most websites allow people to post a short story about themselves and their funding mission to persuade others to support their cause. Students can post a personalized crowdfunding link to their Facebook page, Twitter, and other social media platforms that they may use to connect with their friends and family.

» **Fundraisers** Bake sales, car washes, and community dances are all great ways to raise money to pay for higher education. Remind students to publicize their event on social media and to invite their friends, families, and teachers. They could even ask for in-kind donations like sports shirts or gift baskets from

people in their community and raffle these off during the fundraiser. Ticket sales from the raffle could be used towards purchasing textbooks or to cover other living expenses while they are at college.

» **Donation Letters** Students could draft a donation letter asking family, friends, and local businesses to support them financially and help them achieve their educational goals. Students should specify why they are pursuing higher education, what they hope to do with their education, and outline the financial struggles they foresee as they work towards their degree.

» **Private loans** Some banks offer private loans to undocumented immigrants. However, these banks typically require qualified undocumented borrowers to have a credit-worthy U.S. citizen or permanent resident co-sign the loan. Students and their families should be aware that loans usually come with high interest rates.

# 07 WHAT TO DO IF YOUR STUDENT HAS A PROBLEM



*Celebrating the launch of ICIRR's volunteer run Family Support Hotline.*

Contact a community organization near you if a student you know runs into any difficulties regarding his or her immigration status while trying to access higher education in the United States. Some of the difficulties he or she may encounter include

- ❖ A college or university that does not allow undocumented students to apply to their institution,
- ❖ A public college or university in Illinois that will not extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students,
- ❖ Being taken into custody or put into deportation proceedings.

You can find a list of community organizations to reach out to for guidance in **Appendix C**.

If you know of an undocumented student who has been taken into custody or is in deportation proceedings or is in urgent need of help regarding their immigration status, have them **call the emergency ICIRR Family Support Hotline: (855) 435-7693**.

The hotline is designed to help immigrant families across Illinois in emergency situations. Please note that the hotline will not provide you with legal advice; however, it will refer callers to lawyers and community organizations trusted by ICIRR.

Other services provided include referrals to other social services that may be available, citizenship services and ministry referral.

# ➤➤ Appendix A: Sample Affidavit

# Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## AFFIDAVIT FORM FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR RESIDENCY TUITION ACCORDING TO PUBLIC ACT 93-0007

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NEIU ID Number

In order to qualify for in-state tuition, you must submit an official high school transcript if you were admitted as a transfer student. The high school transcript is required for the verification process. In-state tuition is not granted unless you meet all qualifications as stipulated in Public Act 93-0007 of the Illinois General Assembly.

This form will be used for the sole purpose of assessing the assignment of in-state tuition and has no impact on the admissions process. ***This form and high school transcript must be received within 30 calendar days from the date of assessment of tuition or the date designated in the official university calendar as that upon which instruction begins for the academic period for which the tuition is payable or the student loses the rights to change or adjust tuition for the semester in question.***

### INSTRUCTIONS

You must answer each of the questions below and sign your name in the Affidavit section. Submit the completed and signed document and high school transcript to the Admissions Review and Processing Office. Please allow 1-2 weeks for review and reassignment of tuition if eligible.

1. Did you reside with your parent(s) while attending a public or private high school in Illinois?  
 Yes       No
2. Did you graduate from a public or private high school or receive the equivalent of a high school diploma (GED) in the state of Illinois?  
 Yes       No
3. Did you attend high school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma?  
 Yes       No

I hereby swear that the information contained herein this document is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I hereby swear that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at my earliest opportunity to do so.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

Office Use:  
Resident Tuition Approved  Yes  No

Staff Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Source: <http://neiu.edu/future-students/sites/neiu.edu.future-students/files/documents/sapaja2/Affidavit%20for%20Undocumented%20Students.pdf>

## Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
<b>Augustana College</b>	<b>Emily Johnson</b> Associate Director of Admissions (309) 794-7574 emilyjohnson@augustana.edu	Complete <i>Merit Scholarship Estimate Form</i> and an admissions staff will contact you to discuss a scholarship estimate.	Contact an admissions representative for information about applying for need-based assistance.	Choose "non-citizen."	Enter 000-00-0000.  DACA recipients with a SSN should also enter 000-00-0000.	Can waive \$35 application fee.
<b>Aurora University</b>	<b>Luke Kerber</b> Freshman Admission Counselor (630) 844-5293 lkerber@aurora.edu	Between \$3000 and \$13,000 based on GPA and ACT scores. Music and theatre scholarships also available.	Contact Luke Kerber to request the <i>Institutional Aid Application</i> for aid that exceeds \$5000.	Indicate country of birth and mark permanent resident.	Leave blank or put 000-00-0000.	Application fee waiver available for \$25 application fee.
<b>Benedictine University</b>	<b>Jennifer Erickson</b> Associate Director of International Programs and Services (630) 829-6304 jerickson@ben.edu  <b>Admissions Office</b> (630) 829-6300	Between \$1,000 and \$14,100 per year.  More info: <a href="http://www.ben.edu/admissions/undergraduate/freshman/scholarships.com">http://www.ben.edu/admissions/undergraduate/freshman/scholarships.com</a>	Determined based on information provided in admissions application.	Choose "other" and, if you would like, specify your specific status.  A blank field is not accepted.	Enter 000-00-0000.  A blank field is not accepted.	Call Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300 for information about how to waive application fee.
<b>Bradley University</b>	Admissions info. for undergraduates: (309) 677-1000 (800) 447-6460 admissions@bradley.edu	Between \$16,000 and \$34,000 over four years, based on academic performance.	None for undocumented students.	Mark "No, I am not a citizen."	Leave it blank.	All online applications are free.
<b>Chicago State University</b>	<b>John Martinez</b> Associate Director of Admissions (773) 995-3578 jr-martinez1@csu.edu	Only for Latino students who meet criteria, including minimum of 18 ACT score and 3.0 GPA.	Complete application for the Latino Resource Center Scholarship.	Choose "Undocumented students."	Leave it blank. You will be issued a school ID number.	Can waive application fee, but signature page of application should be printed and mailed.
<b>College of DuPage</b>	<b>Saraliz Jimenez</b> Manager, Latino Outreach Center (630) 942-3039 latinocenter@cod.edu	Scholarships available: Presidential Scholarship Board of Trustees Scholar Deans Scholars  Awarded every year to a limited number of recipients.	None for undocumented students.	Leave it blank.	Call Admissions and Outreach at (630) 942-2380 to request an alternate number, which can then be entered into the SSN field on the admissions application only.	Fee waiver code available for veterans.  Otherwise, additional documentation required for fee waiver to be considered.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
<b>College of Lake County</b>	<b>Miguel Mireles</b> Recruitment Specialist (847) 543-2429 <a href="mailto:mmireles@clcillinois.edu">mmireles@clcillinois.edu</a> <a href="http://www.clcillinois.edu/undocumented">www.clcillinois.edu/undocumented</a>	Complete <i>CLC Foundation Application</i> .	Complete <i>CLC Foundation Application</i> .	Choose "other."	Select box that you choose not to provide SSN.	Can request fee waiver.
<b>Columbia College</b>	<b>Precious Davis</b> Assistant Director of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives (312) 369-7719 <a href="mailto:pdavis@colum.edu">pdavis@colum.edu</a>	Between \$1,000 and \$12,000 per year, over four years, based on academic achievements, talent, or ability in student's intended major.	Contact an admissions counselor to navigate and plan for need-based aid.	Choose "undocumented student."	No such field on admissions application.	Can request fee waiver through admissions application.
<b>DePaul University</b>	Admissions info. for undergraduates:  Visit <a href="http://emmapps.depaul.edu/counselorfinder/">http://emmapps.depaul.edu/counselorfinder/</a> to find an admissions counselor for your geographic location.	Between \$5,500 and \$17,000 per year, which is renewable based on students' GPA.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Non-citizen" with an "unknown visa status."  Will be asked to enter an international address, Use DePaul's address: 1 E. Jackson Blvd.  Then, enter own address in U.S. address field.	Leave it blank.	Online application fee lower than paper application fee.  Can request fee waiver.
<b>Dominican University</b>	<b>Glenn Hamilton</b> Assistant VP of Enrollment Management (708) 524-6795 <a href="mailto:hamilton@dom.edu">hamilton@dom.edu</a>	Between \$4,000 and \$17,500 per year, which is renewable based on GPA.  Based on core GPA and standardized test	None for undocumented students.	Leave it blank.	Enter 000-00-0000.	No application fee for online application.
<b>Eastern Illinois University</b>	<b>Erica Aguilar</b> Admission Counselor (217) 581-5027 <a href="mailto:esaguilar@eiu.edu">esaguilar@eiu.edu</a>	None for undocumented students.	None for undocumented students.	Can choose either "Undocumented student" or leave field blank.	Enter 000-00-0000.	Can request fee waiver to waive \$30 application fee.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
<b>Elmhurst College</b>	<b>Stephanie Levenson</b> <i>Director of Admissions</i> (630) 617-3354 slevenson@elmhurst.edu	Between \$6,000 and \$21,000 per year based on GPA and ACT score. An additional \$2,000 awarded to students who qualify for higher academic scholarship.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non U.S. citizen or permanent resident" and list country of citizenship. Can leave visa section blank.	Not required for admissions application.	No application fee.
<b>Illinois College</b>	<b>Rick Bystry</b> <i>Senior Associate Director of Admissions</i> (217) 245-3030 rlbystry@mail.ic.edu	Between \$10,000 and \$18,000 per year based on academic background.	Contact Office of Admission for need-based financial aid.	Choose "non-citizen" or "other."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
<b>Illinois Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Tanya Cabrera</b> <i>Associate Director of Minority Outreach &amp; Undocumented Student Initiatives for the Vice Provost.</i> (312) 919-9411 tcabrera@iit.edu	All incoming freshmen eligible for CAMRAS and CROWN merit-based scholarships.	Contact <b>Leticia Moreno</b> for institutional aid. (312) 567-3422 lmoreno2@iit.edu	Can disclose undocumented status in the Common Application.	Enter 000-00-0000.	No application fee.
<b>Illinois State University</b>	<b>Nancy Vasquez</b> <i>Assistant Director of Admissions</i> (309) 438-3914 (direct) <a href="mailto:nancy.vasquez@ilstu.edu">nancy.vasquez@ilstu.edu</a> All admissions support staff is able to assist. (309) 438-2181 (main office)	Between \$6,000 and \$11,000 per year, which is renewable based on academic performance.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Undocumented." Field cannot be blank.	Leave it blank.	High school counselors should complete counselor certification form to waive fee.
<b>Illinois Wesleyan University</b>	<b>Bob Geraty</b> <i>Interim Dean of Admissions</i> (309) 556-3031 <a href="mailto:bgeraty@iwu.edu">bgeraty@iwu.edu</a>	Merit scholarships are available based on GPA, test results, and rank. Typically, 75% of incoming candidates meet merit aid qualifications.	Complete a CSS Profile to be considered for need-based financial aid.	Answer "No" to U.S. citizenship.	Online, enter 000-00-0000.  On paper, leave it blank.	No application fee.
<b>Joliet Junior College</b>	<b>Rosa Salazar</b> <i>Recruitment Specialist</i> (815) 280-2562	\$2,750 offered to graduates of JJC District 525 High Schools. To qualify, students must have a 3.25 GPA and a 21 or above on the ACT. For more info. contact Rosa Salazar.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Undocumented/Deferred Action."	DACA students who have an SSN can include it if they wish. If student does not have SSN, must fill out paper application.	No application fee.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Lake Forest College	<b>Kris Sundberg</b> <i>Director of International Student Enrollment</i> (847) 735-5006 ksundberg@lakeforest.edu	Between \$8,000 and \$15,000 based on academic performance.	Complete a CSS Profile and institutional form for need-based aid.	On the Common Application, choose "non-citizen" or "other."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
Lewis University	<b>Sean Whitten</b> <i>Associate Director of Admissions</i> (815) 836-5699 whittese@lewisu.edu	Between \$5,000 and \$12,000 per year based on GPA and standardized test scores.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non-citizen."	Leave it blank.	\$40 application fee can be waived.
Lincoln Christian University	<b>Ryan Harty</b> <i>Associate Director of Enrollment</i> (217) 732-3168	Merit scholarships are awarded to students with a minimum 3.1 GPA and 21 ACT score.	Complete a CSS Profile.	Choose "other." Further questions are not required fields, but optional.	Enter 000-00-0000.	None; \$40 application fee.
Loyola University Chicago	<b>Erin Moriarty</b> <i>Director of Admission</i> 773-508-3079 emoriar@luc.edu	Between \$13,500 and \$18,500.  Also, DACA scholarship, which provides DACA recipients with full tuition, room, and	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non-citizen."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
McKendree University	<b>Josie Blasdel</b> <i>Director of Admission</i> (618) 537-6836	Between \$1,000 and \$12,000 per year based on GPA and ACT score.	Complete <i>Institutional Financial Aid Application</i> .	Choose either "Undocumented student" or leave field blank.	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
Monmouth College	<b>Brandon Meyer</b> <i>Chicago Based Admission Representative</i> (419) 399-7001 bmeyer@monmouthcollege.edu	All students receive merit scholarships based on high school GPA and ACT score.	Complete <i>Institutional Financial Aid Application</i> in lieu of FAFSA.	Select "Permanent Resident" and then select "No" for US Permanent Resident Visa.	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
North Central College	<b>Martha Stolze</b> <i>Director of Admissions</i> (630) 637-5800 mastolze@noctrl.edu	Between \$2,000 and \$20,000 per year, which is renewable based on academic performance.	Complete <i>Institutional Financial Aid Application</i> .	Leave it blank.	Leave it blank.	No application fee for online applications.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
<b>North Park University</b>	<b>Brady Martinson</b> <i>Assistant Director of Outreach and Recruitment</i> (773) 244-5500 bmartinson@northpark.edu	Between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per year based on GPA and standardized test scores.	Complete the <i>NPU Institutional Form</i> in lieu of FAFSA.	Choose "Undocumented alien" on the US residency question.	Leave it blank.	Can waive \$40 application/reapplication fee.
<b>Northeastern Illinois University</b>	<b>Fabby Kallas</b> <i>Admission Counselor</i> (773) 442-4024 f-tovar1@neiu.edu	Presidential Scholarship covers full in-state tuition, fees, and provides a book allowance. Six students are chosen per year based on academic credentials.  Separate application online.	None for undocumented students.	Choose option "Requesting consideration under IL Public Act 93-0007" or select "non U.S. citizen."	Online, enter 000-00-0000.  On paper, leave it blank.	Application fee waiver from your advisor or counselor should be sent in with application.
<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	<b>Shevon Porter</b> <i>Chicago-Based Admission Counselor</i> (312) 758-1268 <a href="mailto:sporter@niu.edu">sporter@niu.edu</a>  Additional information available through the Latino Resource Center <a href="mailto:lrc@niu.edu">lrc@niu.edu</a> 815-753-1986	None for undocumented students.	None for undocumented students.	Answer: "Are you a U.S. Citizen?" NO  "Are you a legal permanent resident?" NO  Then, answer questions about HB 60/IL DREAM Act.	If students answer citizenship questions as explained, then will not be asked for a SSN.	Complete Application Fee Waiver Request form.
<b>Oakton Community College</b>	<b>Andriana Esparza</b> <i>Recruitment &amp; Outreach Specialist</i> (847) 376-7126 aesparza@oakton.edu	Undocumented students can apply for three merit-based scholarships: Educational Foundation Scholarships, Academic Merit Scholarship, and Excellence Scholarship.	None for undocumented students.	For the admissions application, choose "Undocumented."  For the scholarship application, choose "Other."	Online application requires a SSN.  Undocumented students should fill out a paper application.	None; application fee is \$25.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Rockford University	<b>Jen Vargaz</b> Assistant Director of Admission (815) 226-4050 (main) (815) 226-3280 (direct) jvargaz@rockford.edu	Presidential Scholarship awards full tuition to 10 students per year.  Trustee Scholarship awards \$20,000 to 10 students per year.  Dean's Scholarship awards up to \$15,000 to 25 students per year.  All are very competitive based on academic performance and require students to live on campus for the academic year.	None for undocumented students.	Online application allows blank field.	Enter 000-00-0000. Field cannot be left blank.	No application fee.
Roosevelt University	<b>Jazmine Ross</b> Admission Counselor (312) 341-2058 Jross13@roosevelt.edu	Between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per year, based on prior academic achievements and talents.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non-citizen."	Leave it blank.	Submit <i>Request for Application Fee Waiver</i> form available from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.
Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)	<b>Amanda Sutton</b> Associate Director, Operations (618) 536-4405 (main) (618) 453-7143 (direct) <a href="mailto:admissions@siu.edu">admissions@siu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:asutton@siu.edu">asutton@siu.edu</a>	Freshman can be awarded \$4,000 or more per year for four years based on academic achievements.	None for undocumented students.	Choose box "Requesting consideration under Illinois Public Law 93-0007."	Leave it blank.	Submit <i>Request for Waiver of Enrollment-Application Fee</i> form.
Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville)	<b>Jeff Chitwood</b> Admission Counselor (618) 650-2741 jchitwo@siue.edu	Scholarship applications are due December 1 <sup>st</sup> . Incoming freshman must have an ACT score of 27 or more.	Contact Rosalena Baez Warner for more forms to apply for institutional financial aid.	Select "no" to U.S. citizen question.	Leave it blank.	Submit <i>Request for Waiver of Undergraduate Application Fee</i> form.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
University of Chicago	<b>Tamara Felden</b> , PhD Director, Office of International Affairs (773) 702-7752 <a href="mailto:tfelden@uchicago.edu">tfelden@uchicago.edu</a>	All students automatically considered for merit scholarships; no additional merit application is required.	Complete the <i>International Student Financial Aid Application</i> .	On the Common Application, choose "non-citizen" or leave field blank.	Leave it blank.	Students applying for need-based financial aid will not be charged the \$75 application fee.
University of Illinois at Chicago	<b>Jennifer Juarez</b> Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (312) 996-3356 <a href="mailto:undocs@uic.edu">undocs@uic.edu</a>	Between \$3,000 and \$8,000 per year, which is renewable based on academic performance.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Non-citizen."  Will then be asked questions to determine eligibility for HB 60 In-State Tuition.	Leave it blank.	Submit <i>Fee Waiver Request</i> form.
University of St. Francis	<b>Eric Ruiz</b> Associate Director of Admission/Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Initiatives (815) 740-5070	Between \$100 and \$15,000 per year based on GPA, ACT scores and subject talents.	Contact Eric Ruiz for internal form. Undocumented students eligible for up to \$10,950.	No question about citizenship.  Answer question about country of birth.	Enter 000-00-0000.	No application fee.
Western Illinois University	<b>Audrey Barrientos</b> Senior Admission Counselor (708) 948-7497 <a href="mailto:ar-barrientos@wiu.edu">ar-barrientos@wiu.edu</a>	All students are automatically considered for merit scholarships upon acceptance.  Students with a minimum 30 ACT and 3.0 GPA will receive \$40,000 over four years to cover full in-state tuition.	For students with at least 20 ACT and 3.0 GPA: submit the <i>Affidavit of Intent to File and Application to Become a Permanent Resident</i> form.  Aid will cover approx. 25-33% of tuition costs depending on academic profile.	Answer: "Are you a U.S. Citizen?" NO  "Do you have a permanent residency card?" NO  "Are you requesting consideration for admission under Illinois Public Act 93-7?" YES  "Are you requesting consideration for admission with a United States visa?" NO	Enter 000-00-0000.	Yes, complete <i>Application Fee Waiver Request</i> form along with a letter from your high school counselor or social worker.

## » Out-of State Colleges & Universities

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
<b>Beloit College</b>	<b>Robert Mirabile</b> Vice President for Enrollment (608) 363-2500 mirabiler@beloit.edu	Up to full tuition may be awarded to qualified students with a B+ of better average. Those who have outside scholarships or other resources available to cover room, board, and fees will be given priority consideration.	Print out and complete FAFSA, mail directly to Beloit College Admissions Office.  Complete <i>Beloit College Financial Aid Application</i> .	Choose "Non-citizen" or "Other."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
<b>University of Notre Dame</b>	<b>Alisa Fisher</b> Senior Associate Director alisa.m.fisher.12@nd.edu	Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 per year.  All students are automatically considered for merit-based awards and will be contacted directly more information if they qualify.	Complete CSS Profile and <i>Institutional Financial Aid Profile</i> .	Choose "Other."	Leave it blank.	Can request fee waiver.
<b>Marquette University</b>	<b>Kate Brazzale</b> Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Admissions (414) 288-7010 katie.brazzale@marquette.edu	Scholarships available through Full-tuition awards, General awards, and the Scholar programs.	Complete <i>Marquette's Net Price Calculator</i> for institutional need-based aid.	Choose "Other."	Leave it blank.	Fee can be waived if you know a Marquette alumnus and complete the <i>Alumni Fee Waiver</i> , or if you complete the common application which does not require a fee.
<b>Purdue University</b>	<b>Tara Evans</b> Associate Director of Admissions (312) 275-6089 Evansts@purdue.edu	None for undocumented students.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Undocumented."  Indicate If you have DACA status.	Leave it blank or enter DACA number.	Can request fee waiver.

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
<b>Saint Louis University</b>	<b>George Winston</b> <i>Program Director for Multicultural and Outreach Recruitment</i> (314) 977-4188 gwinston@slu.edu	All students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships between \$3,000 and \$18,000 per year.  The Presidential Scholarship and Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships both require separate applications.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Non-resident alien."	Leave it blank.	All online applications are free.
<b>Valparaiso University</b>	<b>Redrick Taylor</b> <i>Admission Counselor</i> Redrick.Taylor@valpo.edu	All students are automatically considered for the Board of Directors, Presidential, and Honors merit-based scholarships.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Not a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident" and list country of citizenship, visa status, and country of birth.	Leave it blank.	Contact admissions office to request application fee waiver.

# » Appendix C: Community Organizations in Illinois

**Everyone needs a support network.** Help your student connect with other undocumented students facing similar challenges by contacting one of the organizations below, listed according to their geographic region. Each of the organizations below provides support for immigrants in Illinois.

## Chicago – Loop Area

**The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**  
[www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org)  
55 E Jackson Blvd, Suite 2075  
Chicago, IL 60604

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees and supporting their full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. In partnership with its member organizations, ICIRR educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and, informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

**Contact:** Fred Tsao at [ftsao@icirr.org](mailto:ftsao@icirr.org)

**Immigrant Youth Justice League**  
[www.iyjl.org](http://www.iyjl.org)  
4752 N Broadway, Suite 904  
Chicago, IL 60640

Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) is a Chicago-based organization led by undocumented organizers working towards full recognition of the rights and contributions of all immigrants through education, leadership development, policy advocacy, resource gathering, and mobilization.

**Contact:** Email [info@iyjl.org](mailto:info@iyjl.org).

**Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago**  
[www.ciogc.org](http://www.ciogc.org)  
231 S State St, Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60604

The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago is the unifying force that brings together a wonderfully diverse American Muslim community in the greater Chicago region and across Illinois.

**Contact:** Aymen Abdel Halim at [aymen@ciogc.org](mailto:aymen@ciogc.org) or Tabassum Haleem at [tabassum@ciogc.org](mailto:tabassum@ciogc.org).

**National Immigrant Justice Center**  
[www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)  
208 S LaSalle St, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60604

Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

**Contact:** Cindy Agustin at [cagustin@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:cagustin@heartlandalliance.org).

## Chicago – Northside

**AFIRE Chicago**  
[www.afirechicago.org](http://www.afirechicago.org)  
7315 N Western Ave  
Chicago, IL 60645

AFIRE believes that strategic alliances and partnerships are vital to serve not only the Filipino immigrant community, but to further the common good. AFIRE frames its advocacy around the tenets of movement building, social justice, and community development. AFIRE's programs address four key social justice areas: health and wellness; migration, immigration, and integration; civic and community engagement; and, human rights and advocacy.

**Contact:** Call 773-580-1025.

**Communities United**  
[www.communitiesunited.org](http://www.communitiesunited.org)  
4749 N Kedzie Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60625

Communities United (formerly known as Albany Park Neighborhood Council) is a grassroots community organization that unites youth and adults from Albany Park and surrounding communities to address issues of social, economic and racial justice.

Since its founding, Communities United has engaged over 10,000 community residents in its organizing efforts to improve the quality of public education, preserve affordable housing, increase access to affordable and quality health care, and promote the rights of the undocumented.

**Contact:** Fasher Khan at [Fash@communitiesunited.org](mailto:Fash@communitiesunited.org) or Luis Sinchi at [Luis@communitiesunited.org](mailto:Luis@communitiesunited.org).

### **Korean American Resource and Cultural Center**

**www.chicagokrcc.org**  
**6212 N Lincoln Ave**  
**Chicago, IL 60659**

The mission of Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC) is to empower the Korean American community through education, social service, organizing/advocacy and culture. KRCC serves the Korean American community of greater Chicago, now estimated to be approximately 100,000 people.

**Contact:** Inhe Choi at inhe@chicagokrcc.org.

### **Latinos Progresando**

**www.latinospro.org**  
**3047 W Cermak Rd**  
**Chicago, IL 60623**

Latinos Progresando serves immigrants with the highest quality, low-cost legal immigration services, community education and engagement, and advocacy/organizing around policy that affects immigrants.

The organization's Associates Board raises funds for and administers the Dr. Angela Perez Miller Scholarship Fund, which was created to promote educational attainment in the Latino and immigrant community through tuition assistance and mentoring.

**Contact:** Adrienne Lange at adrienne@latinopro.org.

### **Polish American Association**

**www.polish.org**  
**6276 W Archer Ave**  
**Chicago, IL 60638**

The mission of the Polish American Association, a human service agency, is to serve the diverse needs of the Polish community in the Chicago metro area by providing resources for changing lives, with emphasis on assisting immigrants. Programs offered include education and employment services; social services; immigration services; and, information and advocacy.

**Contact:** Malgorzata Bodyziak at (773) 767-7773 ext. 2.

## **Chicago – Southside & Southwest**

### **Brighton Park Neighborhood Council**

**www.bpncchicago.org**  
**4477 S Archer Ave**  
**Chicago, IL 60632**

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) is a community based, nonprofit organization serving a working class neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest side.

BPNC's mission is to create a safer community, improve the learning environment at public schools, preserve affordable housing, provide a voice for youth, protect immigrants' rights, promote gender equality, and end of all forms of violence.

**Contact:** Idalia Flores at iflores@bpncchicago.org.

### **Enlace Chicago**

**www.enlacechicago.org**  
**2756 S Harding Ave**  
**Chicago, IL 60623**

Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of the Little Village Community by fostering a physically safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

**Contact:** Fanny Diego at fdiego@enlacechicago.org or Tonantzin Gamboa at tgamboa@enlacechicago.org.

### **The Latino Organization of the Southwest**

**www.latinoorganizationofthesouthwest.blogspot.com**  
**www.facebook.com/Latinoorganizationofthesouthwest**  
**4051 W 63<sup>rd</sup> St**  
**Chicago, IL 60629**

The Latino Organization of the Southwest (LOS) aims to create an awareness of the social, political, economic, and cultural reality that will enable Latinos to develop critical thinking and knowledge, and play a more active role in the positive development of their communities.

**Contact:** Email losorganizations@yahoo.com or call (773) 581-1900.

### **Southwest Organizing Project**

**www.swopchicago.org**  
**2558 W 63<sup>rd</sup> St**  
**Chicago, IL 60629**

The Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) recognizes the diversity of its communities and works to build a broad-based organization of churches, mosques, schools and other institutions in the southwest Chicago that will enable families to share common values, determine their own future and connect with each other to improve life in their neighborhoods.

**Contact:** Call (773) 471-8208.

**United African Organization**  
[www.uniteafricans.org](http://www.uniteafricans.org)  
3424 S State St, Suite 3C8-2  
Chicago, IL 60616

United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

**Contact:** Email [info@uniteafricans.org](mailto:info@uniteafricans.org)

## Chicago – West Suburbs

**Proyecto de Acción de los Suburbios del Oeste**  
**(West Suburban Action Project)**  
[www.pasoaction.org](http://www.pasoaction.org)  
2001 Janice Ave  
Melrose Park, IL 60160

P.A.S.O. is a community-based social justice organization that works to engage community members to act through their faith and values to address issues that affect them, their families, and neighbors with the mission to build stronger communities where all residents can live dignified lives regardless of their race, socioeconomic or immigration status.

**Contact:** Call (708) 410-2000.

## DuPage County

**Latin@ Youth Action League**  
[www.loyal-dupage.org/](http://www.loyal-dupage.org/)

Latin@ Youth Action League (L@YAL) seeks to empower Latino youth to engage in critical thinking and community building by raising awareness and participation in activism through direct action organizing campaigns, mobilization, and advocacy.

**Contact:** Cynthia Brito at (630) 808-5835 or [cbrito13@gmail.com](mailto:cbrito13@gmail.com).

## Illinois – Other

**Illinois People's Action**  
[www.illinoispeoplesaction.org](http://www.illinoispeoplesaction.org)  
510 E Washington St  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Illinois People's Action (IPA) is an ecumenical, faith-based community organization. It encompasses 12 counties in central Illinois and includes the communities of Springfield, East Saint Louis, Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, Champaign-Urbana, Danville, Peoria, and rural counties of central Illinois. The mission of IPA is to help its membership work collectively for justice in local

communities and throughout Illinois' urban and rural communities.

IPA works with local grassroots and faith leaders on a wide variety of justice issues they themselves identify.

**Contact:** Jennifer Carrillo at [jenn@illinoispeoplesaction.org](mailto:jenn@illinoispeoplesaction.org).

**La Colectiva at University of Illinois**  
[www.facebook.com/LaColectivaUIUC](https://www.facebook.com/LaColectivaUIUC)  
Champaign-Urbana, IL

La Colectiva is a student organization at the University of Illinois created to address the challenges faced by immigrant communities of Champaign-Urbana. La Colectiva's mission is to advocate for social justice and change on behalf of all immigrants while simultaneously serving the community by fostering leadership and providing resources through grassroots initiatives.

**Contact:** Email [lacolectivarso@gmail.com](mailto:lacolectivarso@gmail.com)

**La Voz Latina**  
[www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org](http://www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org)  
730 N Church St  
Rockford, IL 61103

La Voz Latina's mission is "Promoting the Progress and Serving the Needs of Latinos in our Region." The organization maintains a strong focus on education through English and GED classes, programming for youth, health and family education, and community awareness.

**Contact:** Luz Ramirez at [luzra@lavozlatina-rkfd.org](mailto:luzra@lavozlatina-rkfd.org).

**Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project**  
[www.ssipchicago.org](http://www.ssipchicago.org)  
PO Box 208  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

The Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project is a nonprofit organization committed to community organizing for the rights of immigrants in Chicago's southwest suburbs through education, civic engagement, and advocacy.

**Contact:** Jose Vera at [jvera@SSIPChicago.org](mailto:jvera@SSIPChicago.org).

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## **Conclusion**

We hope this guide offers you valuable advice to help you navigate through the process of researching and applying to colleges and universities in the United States. This guide has been carefully compiled with the help of community groups, educators, undocumented students and their allies. If you have any remaining questions that we have not answered or if there is something additional that you would like us to address, please reach out to us by sending an email to [ftsao@icirr.org](mailto:ftsao@icirr.org) or calling the ICIRR office at (312) 332-7360.

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