

FAFSA/CADAA Resource Guide



Dates & Checklists



CA priority [extended deadline](#): **April 2, 2025**



2025 - 2026 FAFSA-CADAA Checklist.pdf

Cash for College Workshops [1/25](#), [2/8](#), [3/1](#), 3/20

[CSAC Financial Aid To-Do List](#)



FAFSA vs. CADAA



FAFSA:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
<https://studentaid.gov/>

Eligible students/applicants:

- ★ US Citizens
- ★ US nationals
 - American Samoa or Swains Island
- ★ US Permanent Residents
 - Form 1-551 or 1-151 or I-151C
 - Also known as Green Card holders
- ★ Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) holders:
 - "Refugee"
 - "Asylum Granted"
 - "Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)"
 - "Conditional Entrant" (valid only if issued before 4/1/1980)
 - T-visa (T-2, T-3, or T-4, etc.) holder, Victims of human trafficking
 - "Parolee" (paroled into the United States for at least one year and must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that they are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose and intend to become a U.S. citizen or permanent resident)

CADAA:

California Dream Act Application
<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

Eligible students/applicants:

- ★ Undocumented students (no SSN)
- ★ DACAmented students - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- ★ U Visa holders, victims of criminal activity
- ★ Have Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- ★ Meet the non-resident exemption requirements [AB 540](#), [SB 2000](#), [SB 68](#)

Resources:

[Understand the Differences: In-State Tuition vs. CA Dream Act vs. DACA](#)

[FAFSA vs. CA Dream Act: Apply to the Correct Financial Aid in CA](#)

CADAA Option for Mixed-Status Families: CADAA Now, FAFSA Later


The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has once again enabled the CADAA as an option for **first-time and renewal FAFSA-eligible applicants** in 2025-2026. [More info](#)

Not eligible for FAFSA or CADAA? Explore this tuition-free option: <https://sdcce.edu/>

✓ FSA IDs & CADAA Accounts

Who needs an FSA ID? Student FAFSA filers plus at least (1) parent if dependent

Review: [Do I Have to Provide My Parents' Information on the FAFSA Form?](#)


Why are FSA IDs needed?  [Why Do My Contributors and I Need Our Own StudentAid.gov Acc...](#)

Which parent(s) needs an FSA ID?  [Parent Contributors.pdf](#)


Do I qualify for Unusual Circumstances on the [FAFSA](#)? Or [CADAA](#)?
If so, you can be considered independent for application purposes

What do I need to create an account?  [FSA ID-CADAA Acct Info Needed.pdf](#)

Does a parent need their own CADAA account? NO, only the student

 [Creating FSA ID Accounts.pdf](#)

 [Creating CADAA Accounts.pdf](#)


 [How to Create a Federal Student Aid Accou...](#)

 [Creating CADAA Accounts - Mixed Status St...](#)

 [How to Create an Account and Username \(...\)](#)

 [California Dream Act Application: Accessin...](#)

Students and Parents with a SSN:

- ★ Your FSA ID account info will be sent to the Social Security Administration for verification
- ★ Identity verification takes approximately 1-3 days
- ★ What does verification look like? SSA reviews data entered with SSA record for individual
- ★ Recommendation: start app after identity is verified (Matched w/ green  in settings)
- ★ After identity is verified, parent users can transfer IRS data onto their contributor forms

Parents without Social Security Numbers (SSN)

- ★ Do NOT enter an [ITIN](#) (if they have one) as their SSN
- ★ “DHS Work Authorization” SSN can be used to request/create FSA ID
- ★ Some parents will be able to confirm their identity with knowledge based questions
- ★ Parents don't see [knowledge based questions](#) in the FSA ID creation process?
 - This happens when demographic info entered does not match Transunion records
 - If parent does not see the questions, proceed with FSA ID creation process
 - [Simplified Attestation process](#): parents may see this instead to confirm & certify
- ★ Once FSA ID is created, contributors will be able to access and complete forms right away
- ★ Parent does not have a US mobile #? Mobile # is optional!

FSA ID already exists but not created by a student or parent(s)?



- ★ Verify with older siblings if they have created accounts for parent(s)
- ★ Attempt to recover account [username](#) and/or [password](#)
- ★ Contact Federal Student Aid Information Center for additional support regaining access
- ★ **Federal Student Aid Information Center Phone # 1-800-433-3243**



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



General Tips for Working on FAFSA:

- ★ Clear  Clear Cookies Cashed Images.pdf on your device's internet browser
 - Additional help by browser: <https://studentaid.gov/help/clear-cache>
- ★ Close down multiple internet browser tabs prior to starting applications
- ★ Create student FSA ID and parent(s) contributor FSA ID(s) 1-3 days prior to starting FAFSA
- ★ Gather your materials  2025 - 2026 FAFSA-CADAA Checklist.pdf in advance

Encountering Errors on FAFSA?

- ★ Use different browsers, different devices (desktops or pc laptops are ideal)
- ★ App may need to be deleted if student and/or parent experiences major technical issues

Guidance for Mixed-Status Families in California

[Guide to Getting Started for Mixed-Status Families](#) | [Español](#)
[You Have Choices Info Guide](#) - [Español](#)

FAFSA vs. CADAA Aid [ENG](#) | [SPANISH](#)

(CSAC Memo): [EOM 2024-07](#) | CSAC: [EOM 2024-06](#) | NCAN: [Link](#)

What is a mixed-status family? Includes U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen students with parent(s) or spouses (also known as FAFSA contributors) that do not have a Social Security number (SSN).

Who can pursue the “CADAA Now, FAFSA Later” option for 2025-2026?

Students in mixed-status families who are concerned about sharing their data with the federal government **OR** students that encounter unusual technical issues and who exhaust ALL available workarounds leading up to the priority state financial aid deadline. A FAFSA can be submitted in the future to access federal aid.

Important: FAFSA eligible students that opt to submit a CADAA will only qualify for state funding, not federal funding. Please review and discuss option(s) with family.

Access to the 2025-26 FAFSA Form for Individuals Without a SSN (Parents)

As of July 2024, Federal Student Aid announced that contributors without SSNs (Parents) will not need to complete the identity verification process to access and submit their portion of their student's FAFSA for the 2025-2026 application cycle. Some individuals may still see the knowledge-based questions (as generated by TransUnion) to attempt to validate the individual's identity if information provided matches a credit history/file. Contributors without an SSN must continue to manually enter their tax information on their FAFSA contributor forms as this data will not transfer over even when consent is provided within their contributor form. Contributors without an SSN will be able to add their [ITINs](#) when prompted.

FAFSA Contributor Invites

- ★ Case sensitive (ex. **342 Rocky Road vs. 342 Rocky Rd** on invite vs. parent account, vise versa)
- ★ Pay careful attention to birthdates (month, day, year on invites/accounts)
- ★ If incorrect info on parent account, edit contributor invite to match account for now
- ★ Some data on parent account may be locked and may require manual edit by FSA
- ★ Changes to parent account can be made post-submission of apps in the interest of time
- ★ Invite available once info is matching, refresh parent page or log out/in as needed

FSA and CSAC Resources

Federal Student Aid Resources

- ★ [2025-2026 FAFSA Preview Presentation](#)
- ★ FAFSA Prototype
 - [Link](#)
 - Access Code: prototype2526
- ★ [25-26 FAFSA Counselor Resource](#)
- ★ [Federal Student Aid Estimator Tool](#)
- ★ [Who is my FAFSA Parent? Wizard](#)
- ★ [2025-2026 Paper FAFSA - English](#)
- ★ [2025-2026 Paper FAFSA - Spanish](#)
 - Will be processed after online apps
 - Recommend to submit online form
- ★ [FAFSA Issue Alerts](#)
- ★ [Support in Other Languages](#)

FSA Outreach Youtube: [Channel](#)

- ★ [25-26 FAFSA- Dependent Students](#) (video)
- ★ [25-26 FAFSA- Independent Students](#) (video)
- ★ [How to submit a 2024-25 FAFSA Form](#) (video) **Spanish**

California Student Aid Commission Resources

[CSAC Instagram](#) - [CSAC YouTube Channel](#)

[2024 Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops](#)

[FAFSA FAQ](#)

[Better FAFSA, Better CADAA - CSAC Q&A](#)




California Dream Act App (CADAA)

Joint [Message](#) From CDE And CSAC: Protection of Student Information For CADAA Applicants

Joint Message: [Spanish](#)

Online and paper app material:

- ★  **2025-26 CADAA line-by-line.pdf**
- ★ 2025-2026 CA Dream Act Application Line-by-Line Webinar: [YouTube Link](#)
- ★ [25-26 Paper CADAA English](#)
- ★ [25-26 Paper CADAA Instructions-Spanish](#)

Additional reference material:

- ★ [Types of Aid with CADAA - English](#)
- ★ [Types of Aid with CADAA - Spanish](#)
- ★ [CADAA FAQs](#)
- ★ [Fin Aid for Undocumented Students FAQ](#)
- ★ [CADAA Common Issues](#)

Corrections & Name Updates on CADAA?

Available as soon as application has processed; students can log back in, make updates, and resubmit CADAA for a new California Aid Report (CAR) to be generated.

Name changes/updates require a separate form: [G-19 Name/Date of Birth Change Request](#)



FAFSA Corrections, Submission Summaries, & Next Steps



Made a mistake? Need to make corrections?

- ★ Available after app has processed
- ★ Online apps take 1-3 days to process
- ★ Paper apps take up to 3 weeks to process
- ★ **Expected corrections:**
 - Missing signatures
 - Missing colleges
 - Missing consent/approval of FTI
 - Missing contributor/parent info
 - Updating Household size
- ★ [Making Corrections to the FAFSA](#)

FAFSA Submission Summary

- ★ Used to be called Student Aid Report
- ★ Available when app is complete
- ★ Once app is complete it can be processed
- ★ Students will view prelim Pell Grant #s
- ★ This is not a financial aid award
- ★ FA awards/package made by colleges
- ★ [Understanding the new FAFSA Submission Summary](#) (video)
- ★ [How to get your FAFSA Submission Summary](#)

Corrections for “Action Required” Apps

Examples: Student Manually Entered Parent Info & Submitted FAFSA or Student Never Sent a Contributor Invite to Parent(s):

- 1) Student initiates correction
- 2) Review parent info on FSA ID account
- 3) Student re-sends a Contributor Invite (info must match, very case sensitive!)
- 4) Student reviews other parts of app for other possible corrections needed
- 5) Student signs their form, temporary status will be “In progress”
- 6) Parent logs into their FSA ID account to accept invite
- 7) Parent fills out Contributor Form and provides consent with “Approve” button
- 8) Parent may need to fill out the whole form as data entered by student may not have saved
- 9) Non-SSN parents will need to manually enter their tax/income data
- 10) Once ready, parent can sign & submits form - Form status changes to “In Review”

Note: once corrections are made for incomplete forms with “Action Required,” processing will take 1-3 days and these students should see an SAI and FAFSA Submission Summary shortly.

Important: Assets! On any type of correction (see expected corrections above), have student double check Assets questions. A reported issue in the last application cycle was that asset data may be deleted when a user initiates a correction and may need to be entered again.

What happens after I correct my FAFSA?

Student/Parent app is re-processed (1-3 day timeline) and a FAFSA Submission Summary with an updated Student Aid Index (SAI) will be made available to student, colleges, state agencies followed by a financial aid award.

How do I create a WebGrants4Students Account?

<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/>

WebGrants4Students

WebGrants 4 Students: Creating an Account



California Chafee Grant



Grant Amounts

Awards up to \$5,000 a year to eligible youth

May be used at any eligible California college or university, or career or technical school

Students attending schools in other states may also qualify

Award shall not exceed five years (whether or not consecutive)

Payment on an eligible California Chafee Grant Award is not guaranteed

Funding is limited; payments are made on a first-come first-served basis

Eligibility

Not have reached your 26th birthday as of July 1st of the award year.

AND

Be a current or former foster youth who was a dependent or ward of the court, living in out-of-home foster care placement, between the ages of 16 and 18.

OR

Be a youth who was placed in out-of-home care by a tribe or tribal organization between the ages of 16-18.

Note: All foster care eligibility is verified by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

How to Apply?

STEP 1: Submit a Chafee Application: <https://chafee.csac.ca.gov/>

STEP 2: Complete the FAFSA or CADAA

Chafee FAQ: [Link](#)

Foster Care Verification Form: [Link](#)

Only needs to be submitted if requested by the California Student Aid Commission



Financial Aid Awards



& Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) Deadlines

UC and **CSU** admits can expect to receive awards starting **TBA**

An official financial aid award will be available after an SAI has been calculated
If a student CANNOT see an SAI - this is a clue that a correction may be needed on the app!

Net Price Calculators

Not able to see a financial aid award yet? Here are great resources!

[2025-26 Financial Aid Calculator - UC](#)

Most UC campuses also have their own calculators available, visit their Financial Aid & Scholarship websites. Exm. [UCSD Net Price Calculator](#)

[CSU Net Price Cost Calculator](#)

Click link & scroll down, then select CSU campus

Net Price Calculators links provided by CSAC:

<https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/calculators-0>

Have a financial aid award?

▶ May 2024 | Understanding Financial Aid Offers and Special and Unusual Circumstances

▶ February 2024 | How to Compare Financial Aid Offers and Schools

College Financing Plan

Previously referred to as the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet: a tool that institutions use to notify students about their financial aid package.

[ANNOTATED College Financing Plan](#) | [College Financing Plan FAQs](#)



WebGrant Reports and Data Tracking



CSAC WebGrant reports available to school districts

Federal FAFSA Completion Tracker by school (general numbers, no student info)

★ <https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>

NCAN FAFSA Tracker (state, district, school data)

★ <https://www.ncan.org/page/FAFSATracker>

Race to Submit (live starting 12/11/24)

★ <https://webutil.csac.ca.gov/Dashboard/default.aspx>

WebGrants for Institutions (exm. Registrars and High School Counselors)

★ <https://webgrants.csac.ca.gov/>



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