

# Financial Aid 101 for Practitioners

A collaboration of Scholarships &  
Financial Aid Education and Program  
Engagement Initiatives Teams

**College Success Foundation**

# OBJECTIVES

1. Learn about the different federal, state, and school-based **financial resources** available
2. Understand how students **access financial aid** resources
3. Understand how financial aid offices **build cost of attendance** budgets and **prioritize aid awarding**
4. Understand how **aid is awarded**
5. Q&A

# DEFINITIONS

- **Dependent:** student who is financially and legally dependent on their biological or adoptive parent(s)
- **Independent:** student who is financially and legally responsible for themselves
- **Homeless youth:** student who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing. May be living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or they're temporarily living with other people because they have nowhere else to go. Also, if they're living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, they may be considered homeless even if their parent would otherwise provide a place to live.
- **Unaccompanied minor:** student isn't living in the physical custody of their parent or guardian (includes homeless children and youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian)
- **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:** federal law that provides important educational rights and services to PreK-12 children and youth experiencing homelessness.

# DEFINITIONS

- **SAI:** Student Aid Index replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). It is calculated using the information provided in the FAFSA. Where the SAI falls within the SAI range (-1500 to 999999) helps schools determine what level of financial support students may need. For example, a lower SAI means the higher financial need and higher likelihood of qualifying for need-based aid like a Pell Grant.
- **FSS:** FAFSA Submission Summary replaces the Student Aid Report (SAR) which is a summary of the information students, and their contributors (if applicable) include in their FAFSA.

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A



Grants and scholarships are usually based on financial need and don't have to be repaid.

Loans are an investment in your future...if you borrow only what you need. Remember, they must be paid back with interest.

A work-study job allows you to earn money while you are in school

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

## Types of financial aid

	Grants	Scholarships	Work Study	Loans
Sources	<b>Federal</b> - Pell Grant - FSEOG - Educational Training Vouchers - TEACH Grant - Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant <b>State</b> - Washington College Grant <b>Institutional</b> - College Grant - Tuition Waiver	<b>National</b> <b>State</b> - College Bound Scholarship - Passport to Careers Scholarship - Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth - Washington State Opportunity Scholarship - American Indian Endowed Scholarship - Seattle Promise - King County Promise <b>Institutional</b> <b>Nonprofit Organizations</b> - Leadership 1000 <b>Private</b>	<b>Federal</b> <b>State</b> <b>Nonprofit/Public Service</b>	<b>Federal</b> - Direct Subsidized loan - Direct Unsubsidized loan - Parent Plus loan <b>Private</b> <b>Nonprofit Organizations</b>
Features	Do not need to be repaid Need-based Merit-based	Do not need to be repaid <u>NO COST</u> : never pay to apply! <u>RENEWAL</u> : know the requirements <u>PORTABLE</u> : can you take it to other schools? Many are one-time awards. Need or merit-based	Does not need to be repaid Must be earned Need-based	Must be repaid. Accrue interest. May require co-signer Credit history/check Not discharged in bankruptcy Good vs. bad debt
Application	FAFSA or WASFA Additional forms (check with the financial aid office)	Separate application for each one	FAFSA or WASFA Additional forms	FAFSA and additional forms Online Master Promissory note Online Entrance Counseling

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

## FEDERAL GRANTS

### Pell Grant

- Current max award: \$7,395
- Need-based aid
- **FAFSA required**
- May receive for up to 12 semesters or equivalent

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- Current max award: \$4,000
- Need-based aid
- **FAFSA required**
- First-come, first-served
- Students with lowest SAIs, Pell elig. given priority in award process

### EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAMS (ETV)

- Current max award: \$5000
- Use at an accredited college, university, vocational or technical college
- Awards are unique to each student and are determined based on unmet financial need
- May receive funding for up to 15 semesters

The ETV application is available online at: [www.independence.wa.gov](http://www.independence.wa.gov).

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

## STATE GRANTS

### COLLEGE BOUND

- WA state students are automatically enrolled (incl. youth of care)
- No felony convictions
- Need-based aid/income eligibility
- **FAFSA/WASFA required**
- May receive for up to 8 semesters or equivalent within 5 years of HS graduation
- Use at one of [65 WA state institutions](#)
- Covers tuition and some fees (at public college rates) after other aid is applied
- No GPA requirement for students attending community college or technical college

### Washington College Grant

- WA state residents (incl. undocumented people)
- Awards: depend on family size, income, and type of institution
- Need-based aid
- **FAFSA/WASFA required**
- May receive for up to 10 semesters
- Use at one of 65 WA state institutions
- Use for: certificates, job training, apprenticeship, college (PT or FT)
- No age limit

Institution	Award (2024-25)
WSU/UW	\$12,000
CWU/EWU/WWU	\$7,500-\$8,200
Private 4 year	\$5,500-\$9,700
CTC	\$5,000

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

## WORK STUDY

### Federal, State, Community Service

- Provides part-time (except summer)
- Need-based
- **FAFSA/WASFA required**
- Paid by the hour
- Wages must equal at least current federal minimum wage
- Amount earned cannot exceed Federal Work Study (FWS) award
- Award amount, class schedule, and academic progress are considered when assigning work hours for work study.

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

## STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

### PASSPORT TO COLLEGE

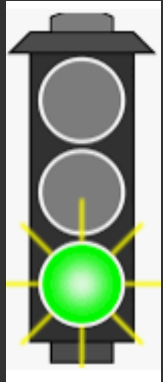
- Current max award: \$2800
- Need-based aid
- Inter/State/tribal foster care, federal unaccompanied refugee minor after age 13
- **FAFSA/WASFA required**
- Activate before age 22; Eligibility expires at age 27
- May receive for up to 15 semesters or equivalent
- Priority given for WCG and State Work Study
- Additional support services offered through college's Passport Designated Support Staff

### PASSPORT TO APPRENTICESHIP

- Assists students participating in a registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Covers occupational-specific costs.
- Tuition, fees, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and occupation-related tools
- Services provided through ANew for administration.

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A



## LOANS

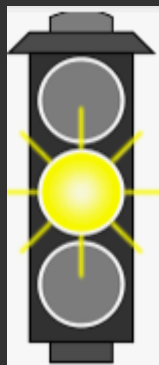
### Good or better loans

#### Subsidized loans

- Need-based
- Government pays the interest while in school
- **FAFSA required**
- The interest rate on subsidized loans first disbursed to undergraduate students between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, will be fixed at 6.53%
- Students have a 6-month grace period

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID



## LOANS

### Be cautious: limit

#### Unsubsidized loans

- NOT need-based
- Government does NOT pay interest, which means interest accrues immediately.
- **FAFSA required**
- The interest rate on subsidized loans first disbursed to undergraduate students between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, will be fixed at 6.53%
- Students have a 6-month grace period

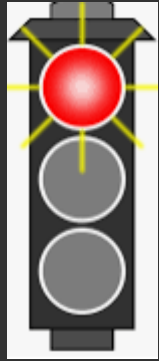
### Be cautious: limit or avoid loans

#### Parent Plus loans

- NOT need-based
- Interest accrues immediately
- **FAFSA required**
- Biological or adoptive parent borrows for the student's education.
- Credit-based
- The interest rate on PLUS loans first disbursed between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, will be fixed at 9.08%.
- Repayment begins when the loan is fully disbursed. The first payment is 60 days after the final disbursement.

# 1. TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A



## LOANS

### Be cautious: Avoid loans

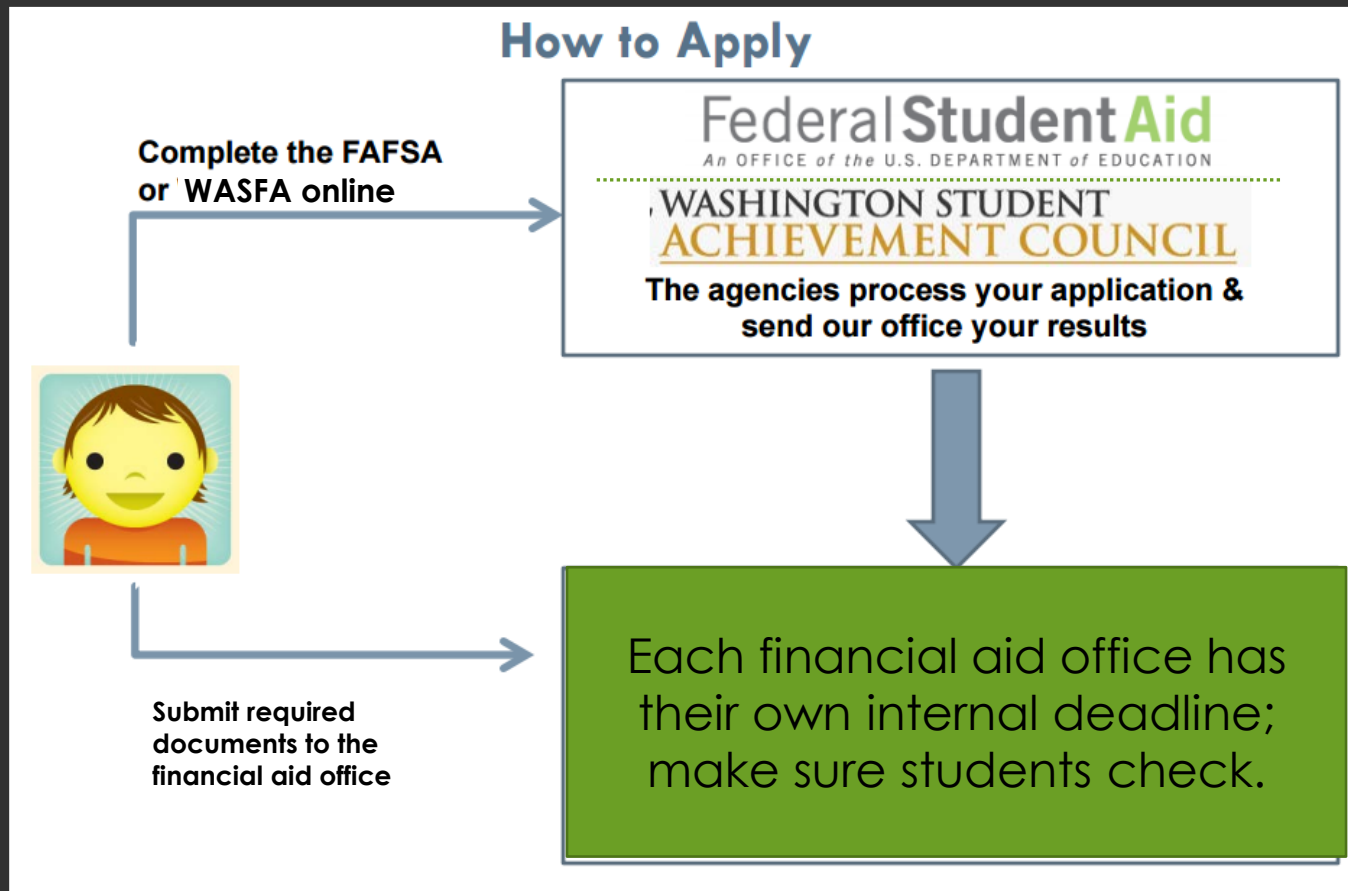
#### Private loans

- Institutional
- Bank
- May have credit requirements
- May require cosigner
- High and/or variable interest rate
- Limited, if any, options for deferment or forbearance
- **FAFSA required:** all private bank loans must be certified by financial aid administrator.

# 2. APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

NO FAFSA/WASFA = NO AID

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A



- Signals schools you may attend
- Calculates Student Aid index (SAI)
- Outlines next steps (verification, appeals)

## 2. APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID: WHICH APPLICATION TO COMPLETE

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

FAFSA	OR	WASFA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U.S. Citizens</li><li>• U.S. Nationals (American Samoa or Swains Islands)</li><li>• U.S. Permanent Residents</li><li>• I-94 Holders : Refugee, Asylum granted, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Conditional entrant, Parolee</li><li>• Visa Holders under VAWA</li><li>• T or T-1 Visa Holders</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undocumented students</li><li>• Students with DACA (expired or not)</li><li>• Other non-citizens** (check w/ individual college/university)</li><li>• Defaulted/balance on federal loans/grants</li><li>• Students who don't feel comfortable completing the FAFSA</li><li>• Other reasons</li></ul>

\*Source: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa> \*\*Other ways to be resident: <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>

# 2. APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID:

## GET LOGINS

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

**FAFSA:** <https://fsaid.ed.gov>



### Who needs an FSA ID?

- Student
- All contributors (whose information will need to be included in the form)

### What number should you use?

- Use SSN
- If contributor doesn't have SSN, they can still get an FSA ID

### Contributors:

- All MUST provide consent

### Tips:

- Parent and student need **different email addresses and phone numbers**
- If multiple children or parent is a student, parents can **use same FSA ID/WASFA Account**
- **Make sure ALL information matches and it is correct!**

**WASFA:** <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>



### Who needs an Account?

- Student
- All contributors (whose information will need to be included in the form)

### What number should you use?

- Use your SSN, DACA, or ITIN, if you have one. If you don't, leave blank.

# 3. COST: WHAT IS INCLUDED IN COST OF ATTENDANCE?

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

## Cost of Attendance

- Tuition + Fees
- Housing
- Food
- Books/Supplies
- Transportation
- Misc. Expenses



## Cost affected by

Type of institution

On-Campus/Off Campus

Resident/Non-Resident

# of credits enrolled

# 3. COST: WHAT IS INCLUDED IN COST OF ATTENDANCE?

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A



## Direct Costs

Direct costs include charges which are paid directly to the school such as tuition, fees, and room and board if you are living on campus

## Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are necessary costs incurred by the student while attending school but not paid directly to the institution.

# 3. COST: HOW IS NEED DETERMINED

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. Q&A

Cost of Attendance  
- SAI

---

= UNMET  
NEED

Formula used by financial aid  
offices

Cost of Attendance  
- Free aid

---

= UNMET  
NEED

Better  
formula for  
students to  
understand  
the gap not  
met by  
good  
financial aid

# 4. HOW IS NEED DETERMINED

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. **Awarding Aid**
5. Q&A

\$ 20,000	<b>Cost of Attendance (COA)</b> Tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, board, transportation and living expenses
\$ 1,000	<b>Student Aid Index (SAI)</b> Amount determined by FAFSA/WASFA (it can be appealed if special circumstances).
\$ 14,900	<b>Grants</b> Aid awarded from all sources that does not have to be repaid. This includes Pell Grant, Federal Opportunity Grant, Washington College Grant, and institutional scholarships (found on award letter).
\$ 4,100	<b>Unmet Need</b> Amount remaining to fulfill cost of education. This amount is usually met by scholarships, work study or loans.

**THIS IS AN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE**

**THIS IS AN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE**

# 4. HOW IS NEED DETERMINED

## FINANCIAL AID FORMULA

\$20,000 Cost of Attendance (COA)

\$1,000 Student Aid Index (SAI)

*THIS IS AN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE*

\$14,900 Grants

\$ 4,100 Unmet Need

*THIS IS AN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE*

## CSF RECOMMENDED FORMULA

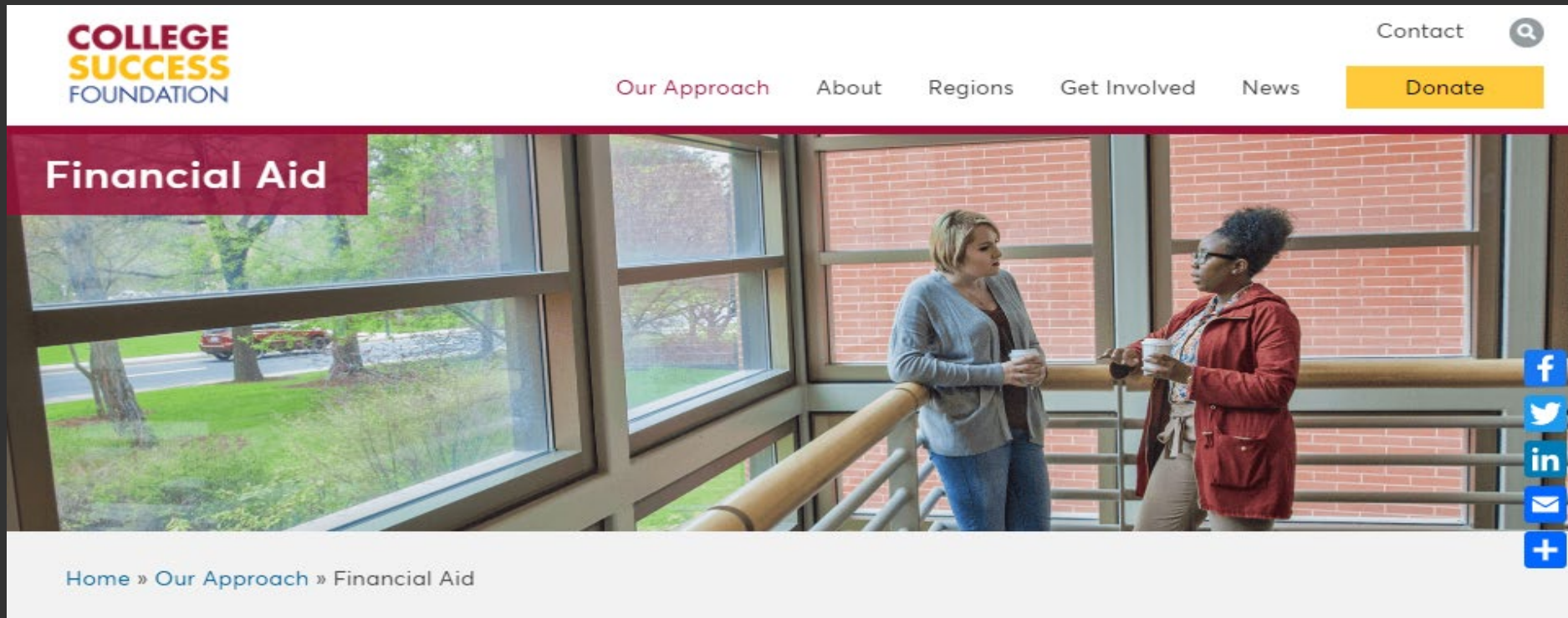
\$20,000 Cost of Attendance (COA)

\$14,900 Grants

\$ 5,100 Unmet Need

*THIS IS AN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE*

# DON'T FORGET! STUDENT FACING HUB



We have tons of resources in our financial aid hub:

1. **Powerpoints**
  - ✓ FAFSA/WASFA
  - ✓ Loans
  - ✓ Special Circumstances
  - ✓ Scholarships
2. **Handouts:**
  - ✓ Required documents
  - ✓ Special circumstance appeals

[collegesuccessfoundation.org/financialaidhub](https://collegesuccessfoundation.org/financialaidhub)

# QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? **HELP?**

1. Types of aid
2. Accessing aid
3. Cost calculation
4. Awarding Aid
5. **Q&A**



[scholarshipservices@collegesuccessfoundation.org](mailto:scholarshipservices@collegesuccessfoundation.org)