

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Financial Strategies Guide



IDENTIFY SUPPORT AT EACH PROGRAM

1. Connect with currently enrolled DACA/undocumented students at that program
2. Educate yourself on the on-campus resources and seek an ally that can help you navigate conversations around financial aid.
3. Inquire with the financial aid director and the dean of the program about the financial aid available for undocumented students.

INQUIRE AND APPLY FOR FUNDING SOURCES

1. Residency for In-State Tuition Purposes
 - a. Programs will enroll you as an in-state, out-of-state, or as an international student. Your tuition fees and aid eligibility is determined by how your state residency is categorized and coded into the system.
 - b. Establishing residency for tuition purposes can vary based on the state you live in and the institution you attend.
 - c. Higher education policies per state can be found by visiting:
 - i. [Higher Ed Immigration Portal: Tuition and Financial Aid Equity for Undocumented Students](#)
2. Institutional Aid Opportunities
 - a. Inquire if your program or campus has opportunities such as:
 - i. Grants
 - ii. Teaching assistant positions
 - iii. Scholarships (need and merit-based)
 - iv. Research-based funding
 - v. Emergency funding
3. Institutional Loans - ***Not all programs have an established loan product***
 - a. Inquire if your program or campus has established an institutional loan product where the:
 - i. School can serve as a co-signer
 - ii. Interest rates are similar to federal student loans
4. Scholarships
 - a. An early start on applications may help secure more funding.
 - i. Research opportunities based on region, career, identities, hobbies, etc.
5. Crowdfunding campaigns (Go-Fund Me)
6. Private Loans (see page 5)
 - a. Loan Repayment/ Forgiveness Programs (see page 5)

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NEGOTIATING YOUR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

1. Negotiating your financial aid package is a useful advocacy skill.
 - a. Emphasize your commitment to the program and their commitment to you by virtue of your acceptance;
 - b. Highlight how financial aid support will make you a successful student; and
 - c. Inform them if you have been provided a financial aid award from a different school
2. Request to meet with the Financial Aid Director and campus stakeholders
 - a. Find administrators that are knowledgeable with the need of undocumented students and who are advocates.
 - b. Search on the campus website under DACA, DREAMers, and Undocumented to see if a resource website has been developed.
 - i. Look for the contact information for the advisor or department who is responsible for supporting undocumented students.
 - ii. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion may be able to help you find on-campus support.
3. [Sallie Mae - How to Negotiate Financial Aid](#)

FUNDING: PRIVATE LOANS

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Loans for Immigrants:

- [Mpowr Financing](#)
 - [Discover Student Loans](#)
 - [Ascent Funding](#)
 - [Self-Help Credit Union: Dreamer Graduate Student Loan](#)
 - [Social Finance: Dreamers Graduate Loan Program](#)
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CO-SIGNER INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Co-Signer Requirements

- a. U.S. citizen or permanent resident with minimum credit score and income requirements

2. Responsibilities

- a. Leverage their financial profile and credit to qualify for and/or obtain better rates on the loan
- b. Legally responsible for the loan amount that was borrowed
- c. Impacts their credit profile, debt to income ratio, credit score, etc.

LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

1. If you need to take out loans to pay for your education, loan repayment programs may be an option once you have completed your program. For health professionals some options include:

- a. Uncommon Good: [Loan Repayment for Health Professionals](#)
- b. [CalHealthCares](#)
- c. [California State Loan Repayment Program](#)

REFINANCING

1. By refinancing your loan, you may be eligible for lower interest rates and/ or a shorter term. You are not bound by the initial loan that was offered and may have the opportunity to receive a better rate by refinancing.

- a. [Guide to Refinancing a Loan- STILT](#)