

September 27, 2021

Hello Parents of Seniors-

With the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) portal opening this week, I wanted to share some quick information on the FAFSA and some support available to help you and your senior submit this application. If you have any questions regarding FAFSA or need assistance, please contact me at holly.hansen@cd-csd.org and I will gladly help you or point you in the right direction.

FAFSA is used by the federal government to determine how much financial aid a student qualifies for their college education. Once completed, this form is then sent to each college of interest that is indicated on the FAFSA, which can be up to 10 institutions. The selected schools then can award financial aid based on a family's financial situation. The state government also uses the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state aid. Aid can come in the form of loans, grants, or work study opportunities.

The form can be filled out anytime after October 1st and before your student's college's financial aid priority date. A priority date is the date at which your student can receive the maximum amount of financial aid for which they qualify. It is important for students to be aware of their prospective college's priority deadline to know when their application needs to be submitted. If your student is considering more than one school, it is suggested they look up each school's FAFSA priority date and file by the earliest date. If you/your student are to file after the priority date, there is no guarantee funds will be available. Families are encouraged to file the FAFSA sooner than later.

In order to complete the FAFSA, students and parents will need their most recent federal tax returns and W-2 forms, plus any current bank account and investment statements. For a full checklist of required documents, please see the document that is also attached..

The application can be submitted online at fafsa.gov or can also be done in a paper form. Remember, the first F in FAFSA stands for free, so you should never have to pay to submit this form to determine aid eligibility. If you complete the FAFSA, it does not mean you need to utilize the aid given to you, but helps determine if any grants or scholarships can be received based on the family's financial situation.

The Last Dollar Scholarship is a program that allows for Iowans to obtain post secondary certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in high demand jobs tuition free. The only requirement is that students complete the FAFSA application. To learn more about the programs covered under the Last Dollar Scholarship, please email me at holly.hansen@cd-csd.org

Completing the FAFSA can be overwhelming, so please use the following free opportunities to get help. Prior to attending, both parent and student should have their FSA IDs created and bring 2020 taxes and W-2's:

October 19 at Clinton Community College from 4:00-6:00 pm, no appointment needed

October 20 at Scott Community College from 4:00-6:00 pm, no appointment needed

October 21 at Muscatine Community College from 4:00-6:00 pm, no appointment needed

October 27 at Clinton High School, from 3:00-7:30, appointment needed, email me for link

November 8 at DeWitt High School from 3:00-7:00, appointment needed, email me for link

Virtually at any time through ICAN's website.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Holly Hansen