Tips for supporting your students applying for NYSDA

UnLocal
Community Immigration Legal Services

WHAT IS THE NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT?

The New York State DREAM Act gives undocumented and other students access to New York State-administered financial aid to support their higher education costs. Students can apply on the student portal by creating an account on www.hesc.ny.gov/dream. In order to be eligible to apply, the student must meet the following status and education requirements.
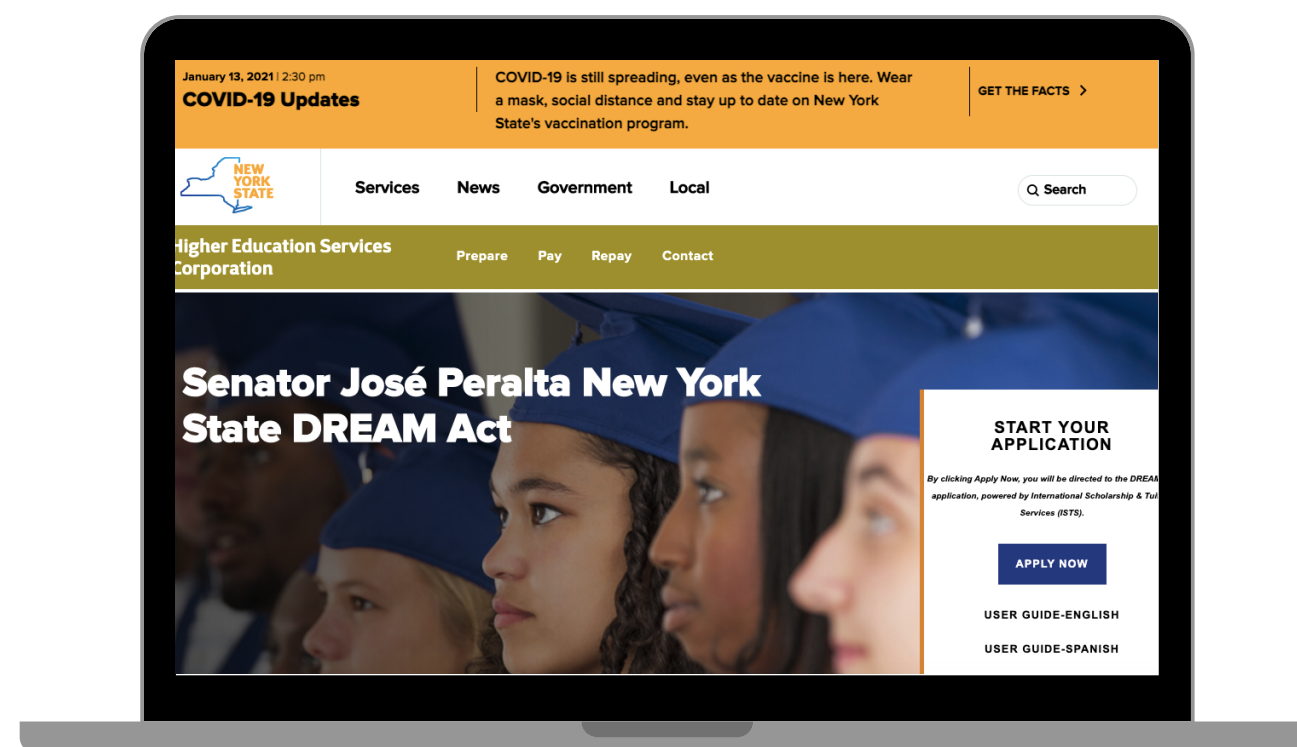
WHO QUALIFIES TO APPLY?

• There are two sets of eligibility requirements, one regarding immigration status and the other regarding the students' educational history.

• The student must have either a: U-visa, T-visa, DACA, Temporary Protected Status, or be undocumented.

• The student must have graduated from a NY state high school and enrolled in an undergraduate program withinn 5 years of graduating, or graduated from a NY state high school and enrolled in a graduate program 10 years within graduating, or receieved NYS high school equivalency diploma, or be charged the NYS resident in-state tuition rate at a SUNY or CUNY college for a reason other than residency.

1 MAKE SURE YOU FILL OUT ALL APPLICATIONS

• Begin the process by completing the eligibility application. Once the student submits the application, they will receive an email confirming that the student is eligible.

• After their application is approved, the student can begin applying for state aid, including TAP, Excelsior, and other scholarships. If they do not complete the applications, they will not be eligible for aid.

2 BE AWARE OF DEADLINES

• There are multiple assistance programs available on the NYSDA portal. Each program has its own set of eligibility requirements and due dates, so be sure to keep track of deadlines. Consider all other opportunities aside from TAP and Excelsior.

• Students will receive emails notifications from two possible ISTS email addresses. Both should be added to the contacts so that they don't go to spam: donotreply@applyISTS.com & NYSDREAM@applyISTS.com
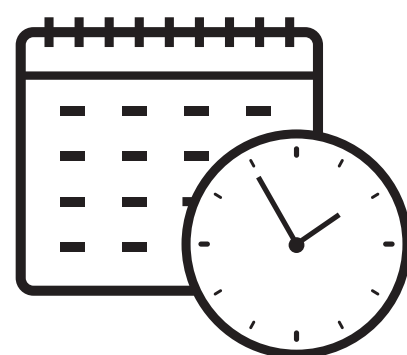
3 PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

• If a student or their parents are undocumented, they should remove the stress address and any parent names visible on any documentation they are submitting. While we have never heard of a student being tracked through the NYSDA, this is a precaution for good measure.

4 UTILIZE OUR SUPPORT

• UnLocal offers individualized consultations for students who need support filling out their applications. Contact Diana at diana@unlocal.orgtro schedule a zoom or phone consulation.