# New York State Dream Act

UnLocal

Community Immigration
Legal Services

646.212.8210

@unlocalinc    unlocal.org

# NEW YORK STATE OVERVIEW

| | US Citizen or Permanent Resident | DACA | Undocumented |
|---|---|---|---|
| Admission | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Federal Financial Aid | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| In State vs. Out of State Tuition | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Grants, Loans & Scholarships | ✓ | ? | ? |
| SAT Fee Waiver | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

NOTE: NOT ALL IMMIGRATION STATUSES ARE REPRESENTED HERE. PLEASE SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS

# NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT: KEY POINTS

- Allows undocumented students attending college in NY State to apply for state-funded aid (TAP)

- One single application for all scholarships

- Allows undocumented students to qualify for Excelsior Scholarship

- Application and User Guide are now available on HESC website

hesc.ny.gov/dream

# NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT

## Requirements for Eligibility

In order to qualify for the NYS Dream Act,

**If you live in NYS, you must have one of the following:**

- U-Visa
- T-Visa
- Deferred Enforced Departure
- Temporary Protected Status
- Without lawful status (includes DACA)

# NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT
## Educational Requirements for Eligibility

## AND you either

- Attend an **undergraduate program within five years** of receiving a NYS high school diploma

- OR, attend a **graduate program within ten years** of receiving a NYS high school diploma

- OR, received a **NYS high school equivalency diploma** (TASC/GED)

- OR, student is charged the **NYS resident in-State tuition rate** at a SUNY or CUNY college for any reason

NOTE: ELIGIBILITY FOR THE NYSDA REQUIRES YOU TO MEET ONE OF FOUR REQUIREMENTS

# QUESTIONS

# NYSDA APPLICATION PROCESS

# NYSDA APPLICATION

THE NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT HAS 2 PARTS THAT MUST BE COMPLETED FOR FUNDS TO BE DISPERSED

1.  **NEW YORK STATE HESC PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

2.  **INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS TO NYS FINANCIAL**

    **AID PROGRAMS**

# GENERAL TIPS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

1. If student is undocumented or their parents are undocumented, they <u>should remove the street address and any parent names visible on the documentation</u>
2. For a high school equivalency program graduate, the <u>HSE ID needs to be clearly present</u>
3. Unofficial transcripts can be used with full name visible, but it should show full grades. If the graduation year is not marked clearly on a transcript, a copy of the diploma may be necessary
4. Multiple files should be uploaded as a .ZIP file

# GENERAL TIPS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

5. Acceptable types include –– **.pdf, .tif, .png, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps**

7. Students will receive emails from two (2) 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**

Welcome to the José Peralta New York State DREAM Act. Select ADD NEW APPLICATION to begin.

HESC Privacy Policy

ADD NEW APPLICATION

## Applications

### New York State HESC Program Eligibility

NYS DREAM Act Application

STARTED

Please note that all documents are processed within 5-7 business days from receipt.

POWERED BY ists

Privacy Policy

Request a callback

# PART 1 : ELIGIBILITY

Dear Gregory James,

Thank you for submitting your **NYS DREAM Act** application. This application will determine your eligibility to apply for New York State student financial aid programs, such as the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), but it is **not** your application for any specific student financial aid program.

To apply for programs that are currently accepting applications, click the "CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR NYS FINANCIAL AID" button located on your NYS DREAM Act Home Page. You can always log into your account later at **https://NYSDREAM.applyISTS.net**.

***Monitor your application***

Use the checklist below to ensure your NYS DREAM Act application is complete:

☐ My required documents have been **uploaded**. *Note: you will have no documents listed in the dropdown box when all required documents have been uploaded. To see the documents needed, click the grey or yellow 'Started' tile next to application title. This will open another box that will list all required documents and the status of each.*

☐ My required documents have been **accepted**.

☐ My application status on my Home page reads **Complete**. *Note: your New York State DREAM Act application will **not** show as complete until all required documents have been uploaded, reviewed and accepted.*

If you have questions, contact us via e-mail at **NYSDREAM@applyISTS.com**. Please put "DREAM Act Application" in the subject line.

Regards,

International Scholarships and Tuition Services, Inc.

and the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation

**Welcome to the José Peralta New York State DREAM Act.**

HESC Privacy Policy

CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR NYS FINANCIAL AID

AFTER A STUDENT HAS SUBMITTED THE ELIGIBILITY PORTION OF THE NYSDA, THEY WILL SEE THIS MESSAGE.

THEIR ELIGIBILITY CANNOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL THEY SUBMIT THEIR ACADEMIC DOCUMENTATION

**Financial Aid Programs**

* indicates a required field.

## New York State Financial Aid Programs

Click on a financial aid program to view the eligibility details and the application period for the 2019-20/2020-21 school year.

2019-20 Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) - Application Period: October 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

2020-21 Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) - Application Period: October 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans - Application Period: October 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Licensed Social Worker Loan Forgiveness (LSW) - Application Period: January 2, 2020 - February 18, 2020

? Help

***IN 2020, THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 25 PROGRAMS

ONCE A STUDENT HAS BEEN DEEMED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NYSDA, THEY CAN APPLY TO INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Math & Science Teaching Incentive (MSTI) - Application Period: January 2, 2020 - February 18, 2020

Memorial Scholarship for Families of First Responders/Public Safety Officers - Application Period: October 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program - Application Period: October 1, 2019 - August 15, 2020

Veterans Tuition Awards - Application Period: October 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Get On You Feet Loan Forgiveness Program - Application Period: November 8, 2019 - June 30, 2020

*Select the financial aid program for which you would like to apply.

Select ▾

? Help

APPLY NOW

* indicates a required field.

## Tuition Assistance Program Details

You are applying for the New York State **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**. TAP provides up to $5,165 in annual tuition support to recipients attending an approved college in New York State. Your annual award will depend on factors including your family's household income, the number of family members attending college full-time, and the number of terms you have received the award. The good news is because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back. However, throughout your college career you must remain in good academic standing and meet the income requirements to continue to receive award payments.

## Student Information

It is important to enter your information into these fields accurately.

| | |
|---|---|
| *First Name | Gregory |
| Middle Initial | R |
| *Last Name | James |
| Suffix | Select |
| *State | New York |
| *ZIP Code | 11225 |

## Notifications

All notifications regarding the status of your application will be sent to _____@gmail.com. *Your contact information is never sold to a third party. Your contact information will only be used to alert you to your application status.*

? Help

**MANY STUDENTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES UP TO $5165**

## Notifications

All notifications regarding the status of your application will be sent to **gregjames913@gmail.com.** *Your contact information is never sold to a third party. Your contact information will only be used to alert you to your application status.*

**\*Primary Phone (Example: 6157773750)**

**Cell Phone (Example: 6157773750)**

## Student College

Please provide your college for which you are applying for New York State financial aid.

**\*Select the college you will be attending:**     City College

**\*College/University Student ID**     2312718̶4

## Student Dependency Status

You are asked about your dependency status to determine your award amount *and* whether you will need to provide information about your parent, spouse or child along with your own.

**\*At any time since you turned age 13, were you:**     none of the above.

**\*What was or will be your dependency status as of June 30, 2020?**     Select

## Household Income

The question below is used to determine your household income. Your household income is considered to be the income of you and your spouse (if married) *or* you and your parents, or step parents, or adoptive parents with whom you resided. Household income should include any pension income and/or child support payments received.

⊘ Help

**THE TAP APPLICATION REQUIRES A STUDENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHERE THEY ARE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE**

* indicates a required field.

## Excelsior Scholarship Details

You are applying for the **Excelsior Spring 2020 Scholarship**. This application is for students looking to receive a *first-time Excelsior award for the spring 2020 term.* The New York State Excelsior Scholarship program enables eligible students from families who earn up to $125,000 a year to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition free. Recipients receive award payments for up to two years of continuous full-time study in a program leading to an associate's degree or four years of continuous full-time study leading to a bachelor's degree, or five years if the program of study normally requires five years. Don't forget, if you accept the award, you must complete 30 credit hours towards your program of study each year and agree to live and work, if employed, in New York State for the length of time you received the award. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the conversion of your award to a no-interest loan. Please note, if you are already a recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship from a previous application period, you do not need to complete this application. You are a recipient if you signed and submitted the Excelsior Scholarship contract, even if you did not receive payment in the prior term. If you still have a pending application from the Fall 2019 term, you should contact HESC at [NYSDREAM@applyISTS.com](mailto:NYSDREAM@applyISTS.com) to determine the cause.

## Student Information

It is important to enter your information into these fields accurately.

**\*First Name**                  Dennise

**Middle Initial**                J

**\*Last Name**                  Hernandez

**Suffix**

## Notifications

All notifications regarding the status of your application will be sent to **dennise@unlocal.org.** *Your contact information is never sold to a third party. Your contact information will only be used to alert you to your application status.*

**\*Primary Phone (Example: 6157773750)**      XXX-XXX-XXXX

**Cell Phone (Example: 6157773750)**

Request a callback

THE EXCELSIOR APPLICATION REQUIRES STUDENTS TO AGREE TO LIVE AND WORK IN NY STATE FOR THE LENGTH AND TIME THEY RECEIVED THE AWARD

# INCOME CEILINGS FOR TAP

- **$80,000 for dependent undergraduate students or independent students who are married and have tax dependents, or independent students who are unmarried and have tax dependents**

- **$40,000 for married independent undergraduate students who have no other tax dependents**

- **$10,000 for unmarried independent undergraduate students with no tax dependents**

# INCOME CEILINGS FOR EXCELSIOR

- Program open to eligible students from families who earn up to **$125,000 a year** to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition free

The question(s) below are to determine which of the family members who reside in your household are or will attend college in the upcoming academic year. This information is used to help determine your award amount.

If you are financially dependent on a parent, other family members in college include parents, spouse, siblings, and children. If you are financially independent, other family members in college can only include your spouse and your dependent children.

**\*How many family members, living in your household, will be full-time college students between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021? Do not include yourself.**

| 2 | ⬍ |

Click **New** to add the information for each family member who will be attending college.

## Household Income

The question below is used to determine your household income. Your household income is considered to be the income of you and your spouse (if married) <u>or</u> you and your parents, or step parents, or adoptive parents with whom you resided. Household income should include any pension income and/or child support payments received.

**\*For 2018, what was your total household income?**
*Do not enter the $ symbol*

| 8000 |

**\*Is your 2020 household income expected to be $80,000 or less due to separation/divorce, total and permanent disability, or death?**
*Only select <u>Yes</u> if your 2018 total household income exceeded $80,000 and your 2020 income is expected to be at or below $80,000 due to separation/divorce, total and permanent disability, or death.*

| Select | ⬍ |

***STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE TAX DOCUMENTATION AS PROOF OF INCOME

# HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL THREE PORTIONS?

**ONCE A STUDENT HAS COMPLETED THREE PORTIONS OF THE NYSDA, THEIR HOME DASHBOARD WILL LOOK LIKE THIS, WITH THREE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS**

# NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT

IF A STUDENT NEEDS ANY ASSISTANCE IN APPLYING FOR THE NYSDA, UNLOCAL WILL BE OFFERING INDIVIDUALIZED HELP. PLEASE CONTACT DIANA DIRECTLY FOR ZOOM /PHONE CONSULTATIONS

Contact: diana@unlocal.org

# FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

# FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

## Why do it?

- Students who are not eligible for Federal Aid, depending on their process, should still fill out FAFSA

- Submitting FAFSA gets you a Student Aid Report (SAR), which can be used to apply for scholarships or institutional aid

- If non-eligible student receives any aid, they should return it immediately
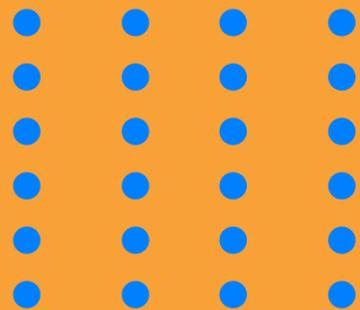
# FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

## Challenges

- Undocumented students and their families may not have SS numbers to file a FAFSA
- They may be fearful of reporting their tax / financial information because of their immigration status
- Many families do pay taxes via ITIN numbers assigned by the IRS, others do not or have inaccuracies within their past tax reports
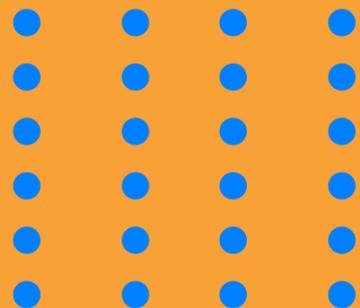
*Recommend a printed copy
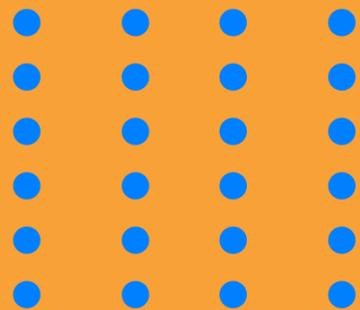
# FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

## DACA Students

- If a DACA student *does* have a SSN, they should include it with their application

- Fill out FAFSA form as early as possible
- **Ask parents to request IRS transcript**

FAFSA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Federal Student Aid

# FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

## Undocumented Students

- **Do not submit FAFSA online**
- Use College Board's CSS Profile
- Can fill out paper copy of FAFSA to submit to individual institutions for in-house calculations
- Counselors should inform schools when submitting CSS Profile or paper copy FAFSA

⚠️ If a student does not have a Social Security Number, **fill out with all zeros**

# Sample FAFSA form for a student who is *not eligible* for federal aid (e.g. DACA, TPS or without status)

**8. Your Social Security Number** See Notes page 9.

0 0 0 – 0 0 – 0 0 0 0

**9. Your date of birth**

MONTH DAY YEAR

0 1 0 1 2 0 0 2

**10. Your telephone number**

( 7 1 8 ) 1 2 3 – 4 5 6 7

Your driver's license number and driver's license state (if you have one)

**11. Driver's license number**

**12. Driver's license state**

**13. Your e-mail address.** If you provide your e-mail address, we will communicate with you electronically. For example, when your FAFSA has been processed, you will be notified by e-mail. Your e-mail address will also be shared with your state and the colleges listed on your FAFSA to allow them to communicate with you. If you do not have an e-mail address, leave this field blank.

s t u d e n t @ g m a i l . c o m

**14. Are you a U.S. citizen?**
Mark only one.
See Notes page 9.

Yes, I am a U.S. citizen (U.S. national). **Skip to question 16.** ....... ○ 1

No, but I am an eligible noncitizen. **Fill in question 15.** ........... ○ 2

No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen. **Skip to question 16.** ● 3

**15. Alien Registration Number**

A

★ fill in 0s for social security #     ★ leave blank Alien Registration Number

# Sample FAFSA form for a noncitizen student who *is* eligible for federal aid (e.g. T-visa holder or asylee)

**8. Your Social Security Number** **See Notes page 9.**

`1 2 3 – 4 5 – 6 7 8 9`

**9. Your date of birth** MONTH DAY YEAR

`0 1` `0 1` `2 0 0 2`

**10. Your telephone number**

`( 7 1 8 )` `1 2 3 – 4 5 6 7`

---

Your driver's license number and driver's license state (if you have one)

**11. Driver's license number**

**12. Driver's license state**

---

**13. Your e-mail address.** If you provide your e-mail address, we will communicate with you electronically. For example, when your FAFSA has been processed, you will be notified by e-mail. Your e-mail address will also be shared with your state and the colleges listed on your FAFSA to allow them to communicate with you. If you do not have an e-mail address, leave this field blank.

`s t u d e n t @ g m a i l . c o m`

---

**14. Are you a U.S. citizen?** Mark only one. **See Notes page 9.**

Yes, I am a U.S. citizen (U.S. national). **Skip to question 16.** ....... ◯ 1

No, but I am an eligible noncitizen. **Fill in question 15.** ........... ● 2

No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen. **Skip to question 16.** ◯ 3

**15. Alien Registration Number**

`A 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3`

---

⭐ fill in social security #        ⭐ fill in Alien Registration Number

# FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

## Students with Undocumented Parents

- **Enter all zeros for parent's SSN** – do not use an ITIN
- Parents should sign printed form rather than use four-digit PIN electronic signature
- Request transcript from IRS before filling out
- If parents do not have an ITIN, they can apply for one using W7 form found on *irs.gov* or by calling 311
- We have never heard of a family being deported due to filling out the FAFSA form
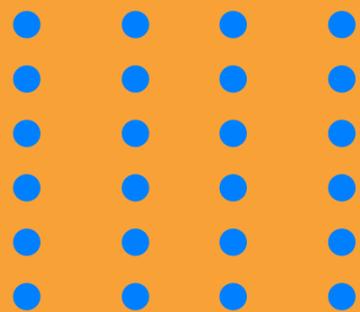
# ALTERNATIVES TO FEDERAL AID

- State-administered funding through New York State Dream Act
- Many scholarships are open to students regardless of immigration status – some are created especially for undocumented students!
- Information on specific scholarships at:

**tinyurl.com/unlocalscholarships**

It is crucial to plan ahead financially, starting as early as 9th grade!
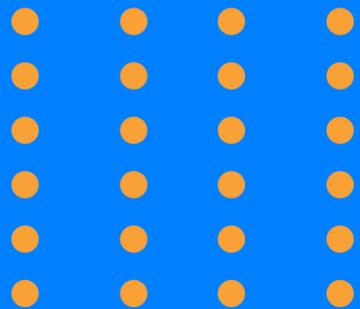
# ALTERNATIVES TO FEDERAL AID

## Scholarship Directory for Non-Citizen and Undocumented Students

Compiled by UnLocal, Inc. July 2019 [Updated June 2020]

UnLocal

| AVAILABILITY | SCHOLARSHIP | AWARD | DEADLINE | ELIGIBILITY | TYPE OF EDUCATION | AUDIENCE | REGION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Highschool Only | Ascend Educational Fund | $2,500-$20,000 | February | all | graduating NYC H.S. and enrolling full time in college | immigrant students or children of immigrants | NYC |
| Highschool Only | Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program | $2,500 | December | all | plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college or vocational-technical college | commitment to community service, outstanding qualities in character, integrity and leadership | National |
| Highschool Only | Gabay Scholarship (SUNY) | full cost of attendance for 4 years | June | NY State Resident | incoming full-time freshman at a SUNY | academic excellence, financial need | NYC |
| Highschool Only | Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Sponsorship Program | <$40,000 per year | November | all | intend to enroll full time in 4-year college | academic excellence, financial need | National |
| Highschool Only | Los Hermanos de Stanford | $500-$1,000 | [Fall 2020] | need SSN or tax ID number | H.S. senior, plans to attend any 2 or 4 year institution | Hispanic students, involvement in community service | National |
| Highschool Only | Myself Third Scholarship (CUNY) | $5,000 | March | all | H.S. senior accepted at CUNY for following year | must have taken a "College Now" course | NYC |
| Highschool Only | Questbridge | full cost of tuition, room & board | September | all | scholarship applicable to specific schools Questbridge is partnered with | financial hardship and academic achievement | National |
| | | | | | | volunteer activities that have had | |

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# CUNY UNDOCUMENTED CENTER

# INFORMED IMMIGRANT

Informed
Immigrant

ESPAÑOL

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS          RENEW YOUR DACA NOW          FIND LEGAL HELP

< ALL GUIDES

## Guide for Undocumented High School and College Students

Learn          Share

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Resources for Applying to College as an Undocumented Student

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QUESTIONS