

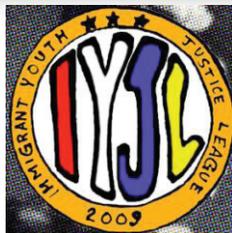
# AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE: *ILLINOIS*



**PRESENTED BY THE ILLINOIS  
COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT  
AND REFUGEE RIGHTS, THE  
IMMIGRANT YOUTH JUSTICE  
LEAGUE, AND EDUCATORS FOR  
FAIR CONSIDERATION**

*This guide is a working draft.*

*If you have suggestions, comments, or  
additions, contact ICIRR.*



**(E<sub>4</sub>FC)**



**ICIRR**

ILLINOIS COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

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# You Are Not Alone

There are approximately 1.7 million immigrants living in Illinois. Of those, about 900,000 are citizens, 500,000 have visas or legal permanent residency, and more than 300,000 are undocumented. There are 11-12 million undocumented people living in the United States.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1190/portrait-unauthorized-immigrants-states>

You  
Have the  
Right to  
Continue  
Your  
Education

**65,000**

undocumented students graduate from American high schools every year.

Source: National Immigration Law Center

Drop the "I" word

Don't refer to undocumented people as "illegals."

No human being is illegal, and using this language is dehumanizing.

The term "undocumented" refers to the immigration status of foreign-born people who have arrived in the United States but do not yet have citizenship.

Undocumented people include those who:

- \* Have entered the U.S. without a visa.
- \* Have overstayed their visas.
- \* Are in the process of acquiring legal status and are authorized to stay in the United States but do not yet have permanent residency.

# Coming Out of the Shadows

“Coming out means telling a friend, a loved one, a classmate, a teacher something that otherwise you would have kept private.”  
—Tania

On March 10, 2010, undocumented students bravely spoke out and revealed their immigration status in Chicago’s Federal Plaza, less than 100 feet away from federal law enforcement officers.

The event was organized by the Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) as an opportunity for DREAMers to tell their stories and confront their fears. They chanted “Un-doc-umented... and un-a-fraid!”

*“I refuse to think of what another ten years of dreams shut down will feel like, dreams of a good education, dreams of a normal life without fear.*

*I am undocumented. I am not afraid.*

*I will not hide any longer.*

*I will come out of the shadows every day if I have to.*

*I’m a human being. I deserve to be happy.”*

*--Reyna*

They called their event “Coming Out of the Shadows.”

Since then, the Immigrant Youth Justice League has helped organize more than a dozen “Coming Out” actions across the country, including two more in Illinois.

- ▶ Coming Out events have become a powerful tool for undocumented students to show their power and tell their stories.
- ▶ Throughout this guide, you will see quotes from actual students speaking out about their experiences and their dreams for the future. These quotes come both from Immigrant Youth Justice League’s March 10th “coming out” event as well as from a survey of undocumented students. Students were asked what resources they needed to go through the college application and admission process and what advice they would give to other students going through this process.
- ▶ Visit [peterholderness.com](http://peterholderness.com) to listen to clips from speeches and to see a slide show from the March 10th event.

*“Come out to whomever you need to so that you can have more resources. If you don't say you're undocumented, no one can help you.”*

**—The unattributed quotes in this guide, like this one, come from an anonymous survey by and for undocumented students.**

## **PUBLICLY REVEALING YOUR STATUS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE**

- ▶ It can put you and your family at-risk of deportation or public criticism.
- ▶ If you are thinking about publicly revealing your status or organizing a Coming Out event, please reach out to the Immigrant Youth Justice League for advice and speak with an attorney.

# What is the Illinois DREAM Act?

For 10 years, universities, business leaders, community groups, and immigrants have urged the Congress of the United States to pass the DREAM Act in order to enable undocumented students—brought to the United States as children—to earn legal status by continuing their education or serving in the military.

THE ILLINOIS DREAM ACT WAS  
PASSED BECAUSE THERE ARE  
MANY OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE  
OUT THERE LIKE YOU

Because of the passion and perseverance of undocumented students and other members of the community, State Bill 2185, the Illinois DREAM Act was signed into law on August 1, 2011. This is the sort of result we can achieve when we unite as a community to stand up and fight for rights.

While the State of Illinois cannot offer these students legal status, we can and should take small steps to ensure that everyone in our state has an opportunity to learn. It will also make obtaining higher education easier by spreading information and awareness about the college application and admission process to undocumented students, high school counselors, and college admissions officers.

- ▶ With the passage of the Illinois DREAM Act, access to financial aid will grow along with high school counselors' ability to advise undocumented students.
- ▶ Counselors may not legally ask about the immigration status of a student. If you feel comfortable disclosing your status, be open with your counselor so that he or she can best assist you in the college application process.

IF YOU ASK A COUNSELOR TO KEEP INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR STATUS PRIVATE, THEY CANNOT LEGALLY OR ETHICALLY DISCLOSE THIS INFORMATION.

- ▶ Counselors follow a Code of Ethics and must keep information confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent imminent danger to the student.

# You Can Ask For Help

- ▶ Everyone needs a support network. Find out how to connect with other undocumented students who are facing the same struggles you are.
- ▶ You can reach out to local organizations in Illinois online, over the phone, or in person.

*“Have courage, the time is now, take the lead!”*

*--Hugo*

## THE ILLINOIS COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

WWW.ICIRR.ORG  
55 E. JACKSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 2075  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees and supporting their full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. In partnership with its member organizations, ICIRR educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and, informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

Contact: Stephen Smith at [SSmith@icirr.org](mailto:SSmith@icirr.org)

# IMMIGRANT YOUTH JUSTICE LEAGUE

WWW.IYJL.ORG  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) is a Chicago-based organization led by undocumented youth working towards full recognition of the rights and contributions of all immigrants through education, leadership development, policy advocacy, resource gathering, and mobilization. Since October 2009, IYJL has helped undocumented youth to organize for change and to live undocumented, unafraid, and unapologetic. If you are interested in attending a meeting in Chicago, please send an email to: [info@iyjl.org](mailto:info@iyjl.org)

## REACH OUT!

*“You’re not alone.*

*There are many  
students like you  
and you will find  
them.*

*Go to different organiza-  
tions’ meetings and don’t  
be afraid.”*

## DREAMACTIVIST ORG: UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ACTION AND RESOURCE NETWORK

DreamActivist.org is a multicultural, migrant youth-led, social media hub that supports the movement to pass the DREAM Act and the enactment of legislation that aims to mend the broken system of immigration. On this site, you can find a map of organizations across the nation that are immigrant youth led.

# ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO IMMIGRANTS

## ALBANY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

[www.apncorganizing.org](http://www.apncorganizing.org)  
3334 W. Lawrence Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois

Albany Park Neighborhood Council is a membership-based community organization comprised of 27 member institutions including religious institutions, schools, service agencies, and universities from the communities of Albany Park, Irving Park, North Park, and West Ridge.

Contact: Pati Islas at (773) 583-1387

## BRIGHTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (BPNC)

4477 S. Archer Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is a community-based, nonprofit organization serving a working class neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. BPNC's mission is to create a safer community, improve the learning environment at public schools, preserve affordable housing, provide a voice for youth, protect immigrants' rights, promote gender equality, and fight all forms of violence. Founded in 1997, BPNC unites individuals and neighborhood institutions to organize campaigns to win essential resources for one of Chicago's most underserved communities, improve public policy and address the root causes of poverty and inequality.

Contact: Idalia Flores at (773) 523-7110

## LA COLECTIVA AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

uicolectiva.wordpress.com  
www.facebook.com/colectiva  
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

La Colectiva is a student organization at the University of Illinois that was created to address the challenges faced by the immigrant communities of Champaign-Urbana. Our mission is to advocate for social justice and change on behalf of all immigrants while simultaneously serving the community by fostering leadership and providing resources through grassroots initiatives.

Contact: [lacolectivarso@gmail.com](mailto:lacolectivarso@gmail.com)

## COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS OF GREATER CHICAGO

[www.ciogc.org](http://www.ciogc.org)  
231 S. State Street, Suite 300  
Chicago, Illinois

The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago is the unifying force that brings together a wonderfully diverse American Muslim community in the greater Chicago region and across Illinois.

Contact: Ahlam Jbara at [ajbara@ciogc.org](mailto:ajbara@ciogc.org)

**ENLACE CHICAGO**  
[www.enlacechicago.org/index.php](http://www.enlacechicago.org/index.php)  
2756 S. Harding Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of the Little Village community by fostering a safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

Contact: Alheli Herrera, NCP organizer, at (773) 542-9233, ext. 21  
[AHerrera@EnlaceChicago.org](mailto:AHerrera@EnlaceChicago.org)

**ILLINOIS PEOPLE'S ACTION (IPA)**  
[illinoispeoplesaction.org](http://illinoispeoplesaction.org)  
510 E. Washington Street, Suite 309  
Bloomington, Illinois

Illinois People's Action is an ecumenical, faith-based community organization. It encompasses 12 counties in central Illinois and includes the communities of Springfield, East Saint Louis, Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, Champaign-Urbana, Danville, Peoria, and rural counties of central Illinois. The mission of IPA is to help its members work collectively for justice in local communities and throughout Illinois' urban and rural communities.  
Contact: Sonny Garcia at (309) 827-9627

## LATIN@ YOUTH ACTION LEAGUE (L@YAL)

DuPage County

L@YAL seeks to empower Latin youth to engage in critical thinking and community building by raising awareness and participation in activism through direct action organizing campaigns, mobilization, and advocacy. Contact: Fanny Martinez at (630) 632-2189, [martinez.fanny89@gmail.com](mailto:martinez.fanny89@gmail.com), and Cynthia Brito at (630) 808-5835, [cbrito13@gmail.com](mailto:cbrito13@gmail.com)

## KOREAN AMERICAN RESOURCE AND CULTURAL CENTER

[www.chicagokrcc.org](http://www.chicagokrcc.org)  
6146 N. Lincoln Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

KRCC's mission is to empower the Korean American community through education, social service, organizing/advocacy, and culture. Contact: Carla Navoa, Youth Organizer at (773) 588-9158, [carla@chicagokrcc.org](mailto:carla@chicagokrcc.org)

## THE LATINO ORGANIZATION OF THE SOUTHWEST

[www.losillinois.org](http://www.losillinois.org)  
6507 S. Kedzie Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

LOS works to create an awareness of the social, political, economic, and cultural reality for Latinos that will enable them to develop critical thinking and knowledge, play a more active role in the positive development of their communities.

Contact: Rosa Carrasco at (773) 925-0397

## NUESTRA VOZ AND PASO

Melrose Park and West Suburbs, Illinois

Nuestra Voz is a non-profit youth-driven organization that promotes higher education among Latinos in the Western Suburbs. Their goal is to increase awareness about the importance of higher education, and to let the community know that attending college is achievable for everyone, regardless of immigration status. Their work fully supports the rights of undocumented students, believing that they, too, deserve to continue their education.

Contact: Rogelio Diaz at [rogelio.paso@gmail.com](mailto:rogelio.paso@gmail.com), Arianna Salgado at [ariannabsalgado@gmail.com](mailto:ariannabsalgado@gmail.com), or [nuestra.voz.1@gmail.com](mailto:nuestra.voz.1@gmail.com)

## SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT

[www.swopchicago.org](http://www.swopchicago.org)

2609 West 63rd Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois

Recognizing the diversity of our communities, SWOP works to build a broad-based organization of churches, mosques, schools and other institutions in Southwest Chicago that will enable families to share common values, determine their own future and connect with each other to improve life in our neighborhoods.

Contact: Sarah Mesick at (773) 471-8208, [sarah.swop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sarah.swop@sbcglobal.net)

## SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN IMMIGRANT PROJECT

Bolingbrook and Southwest suburbs

SSIP is an immigrant rights organization based in Bolingbrook, Illinois that serves and empowers immigrant communities throughout the southwest suburbs.

Contact: Jose Vera at (630) 863-9130, [jose-e-vera@hotmail.com](mailto:jose-e-vera@hotmail.com)

## UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

[uniteafricans.org](http://uniteafricans.org)

3424 S. State Street, Suite 3C8-2, Chicago, Illinois

The United African Organization is an advocacy coalition of African national associations dedicated to social justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

## UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (UCCIR)

Chicago, Illinois (Hyde Park)

UCCIRR is a group of University of Chicago students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members dedicated to advocacy, action, and progressive dialogue in relation to the pressing contemporary issue of immigrant rights.

Contact: [info.uccir@gmail.com](mailto:info.uccir@gmail.com)

## LA VOZ LATINA

[www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org](http://www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org)

412 Market Street, Rockford, Illinois

The organization maintains a strong focus on education through English and citizenship classes, programming for youth, health, and family education, and community awareness.

Contact: Kristina Reuber, Youth Programs Coordinator, at (815) 965-5784

# You Can Go to College

“DO NOT STOP STUDYING.

*Even if you can't go to a full four-year college or as a full-time student, keep going to school. This can either be as student at a community college, which is cheaper, or as a part time student.... Build a plan and don't lose hope.”*

Despite many barriers, **THOUSANDS OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ATTEND AND GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE YEARLY.** An analysis of college attendance finds that among undocumented immigrants ages 18 to 24 who have graduated from high school, half (49%) are in college or have attended college. The comparable figure for U.S.-born residents is 71%.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center

- When filling out college applications, providing a social security number is **optional and never required.**

**NO FEDERAL OR STATE LAW PROHIBITS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FROM OFFERING ADMISSION TO UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS.** Many schools are open to admitting students regardless of citizenship status and prioritize fostering a diverse and welcoming environment. You do not need to worry about revealing your status when filling out admissions or financial aid forms. The privacy of student records is protected under the Federal Education and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The information provided may change as universities update their policies, so contact the university to confirm whether you should leave the space for the social security number blank, fill in zeros, or fill in the space with an identification number provided by the university. If you are uncomfortable calling the university to get this information, ask your guidance counselor, a friend, or a family member to call on your behalf. Remember that it is against the law to use a social security number that is not your own or a false social security number.

## EVEN IF YOU ARE UNDOCUMENTED YOU CAN STILL:

Open a bank account:  
You can use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) number instead of a SSN#

*“Reach out to the universities that they want to apply to and talk with them about your status and see what resources they have available for you.”*

**SEE THE APPENDIX AT THE END OF THIS GUIDE** for a list of universities in Illinois that openly admit undocumented students.

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This guide includes:

- An admissions contact person
- Merit-based scholarships
- Need-based financial aid
- How to answer the citizenship question on the application
- What to put in the social security number space in lieu of a SSN
- When it might be possible to waive the application fee

Source: The Illinois Association of College Admissions Counselors

# What to Ask Before Starting The Application Process

The information you may need to begin the college application process can seem overwhelming. But it's important to make sure you **KNOW THE ANSWERS** to certain questions before going ahead with your applications.

TAKE A LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE AT THESE USEFUL SAMPLE  
QUESTIONS TO ASK A FINANCIAL AID OR ADMISSIONS  
OFFICER

- If you feel uncomfortable calling, ask your guidance counselor or another adult to call on your behalf.

“BE PERSISTENT.  
BE YOUR OWN BEST ADVOCATE.  
ONLY YOU  
CAN ACCOMPLISH  
WHAT YOU WANT.”

When you call a financial aid or admissions office, there may be someone there who specializes in working with undocumented students. Ask if there is a person who handles this and if there is, ask to be transferred to that person.

# Questions to Ask a Financial Aid or Admissions Officer

- ▶ How would an undocumented student answer the citizenship question on the application? Which box should I check on your application?
- ▶ How do I fill in the application without a social security number? Should I fill it in with zeros, or leave it blank?
- ▶ What kind of financial aid is available to a student without a social security number?
- ▶ Can I prove financial need in another way, like with tax forms or a CSS Profile?
- ▶ Do you have merit-based scholarships?
- ▶ Do you offer fee waivers and if so, how can I access one?
- ▶ Does applying to this school/major require a background check?
- ▶ Would graduating with this type of degree lead to a background check or a certificate or state licensure for which an undocumented student would be ineligible?

# You May Qualify for In-State Tuition

In-state tuition is the reduced tuition residents of Illinois pay for public universities. There is a bill, HB 60, that qualifies eligible undocumented students to attend public universities for this reduced amount. See below for an explanation of this bill.

## What is HB 60?

HB 60 is a piece of Illinois legislation that took effect in 2003. This bill enables undocumented students to receive in-state tuition from a public university in Illinois if they meet the following requirements:

- (1) The individual resided with his or her parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois.
- (2) The individual graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois (the GED).
- (3) The individual attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.
- (4) In the case of an individual who is not a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States, the individual provides the university with an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so.

# WHEN YOU APPLY FOR IN-STATE TUITION

When you apply to a public school in Illinois, and you want to qualify for in-state tuition, you will probably have to sign an affidavit form. On the next page is an example of the type of affidavit form you would sign.

Affidavit forms for in-state tuition eligibility may vary by school, but most forms will correspond to the requirements for in-state tuition outlined in HB 60.

This means that the form will most likely ask if you lived with your parents while attending high school in Illinois, if you were in high school in Illinois for three years before graduating, and if you graduated or received the equivalent of a high school diploma (such as the GED). Then, they will ask you to sign an affidavit stating your intention to apply to become a permanent resident in the United States.

Forms such as these are part of a student's records and as such are protected under the Federal Education and Privacy Act (FERPA). You do not have to be concerned about privacy when revealing your citizenship status on this form.

WHICH STATES  
OTHER THAN  
ILLINOIS OFFER  
IN-STATE TUITION  
BENEFITS TO  
UNDOCUMENTED  
STUDENTS?

CALIFORNIA  
KANSAS  
NEBRASKA  
NEW MEXICO  
NEW YORK  
OKLAHOMA  
TEXAS  
UTAH  
WASHINGTON

**Non-U.S. Citizen Affidavit for Verification of Eligibility for Residency Tuition  
According to Public Act 93-0007**

This form is for assignment of in-state tuition and fees only for students who qualify. This form has no impact on admission and is used for verification of eligibility to receive in-state tuition in accordance with Public Act 93-0007 if admitted to the University.

You must answer each of the questions and sign the Affidavit section below. This document must be submitted to Admissions Office for review. You will be assigned out-of-state tuition until your file is reviewed to determine if you meet eligibility. If eligible, your tuition will be reassigned to in-state.

1. Did you reside with your parent(s) while attending a public high school in Illinois?

Yes\_ No\_

2. Did you graduate from a public or private high school or receive the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois?

Yes\_ No\_

3. Did you attend school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma?

Yes\_ No\_

4. If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, will you provide this university with an affidavit stating that you will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at your earliest opportunity?

Yes\_ No\_

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby swear that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at my earliest opportunity to do so.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

# Consider the Type of College or University You Want to Attend

- ▶ On the next page, you will see a table showing **AVERAGE BUDGETS BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION**. This might be helpful in determining how much funding you will need to attend university.
- ▶ **CONSIDER ALL THE COSTS** involved when choosing a type of college or university, not just tuition.
- ▶ **SAVE MONEY** by attending a public university in-state, 2-year college, commuting from home instead of paying room and board, or studying part-time and paying per credit if you are concerned about financing your education.
- ▶ **YOU CAN ALWAYS TRANSFER** after two years to a four-year college or university.

## Average Budget for Undergraduates by Institution Type 2010-2011

	TUITION AND FEES	ROOM AND BOARD	BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	TRANSPORTATION	TOTAL (FOR AN AVERAGE YEAR)
PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COLLEGE IN-DISTRICT (CHICAGO CITY COLLEGES)	\$2,713 average, \$89 per credit hour at Chicago City Colleges	--	\$1,133	--	\$3,846  \$3,981 at Chicago City Colleges
PUBLIC TWO-YEAR OUT OF DISTRICT	\$173.56 per credit hour	--	\$1,133	--	\$6,553
PUBLIC TWO-YEAR OUT OF STATE	\$230.35 per credit hour	--	\$1,333		\$6,371
PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR IN-STATE	\$7,605 average, \$14,414 at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	\$8,535	\$1,137	\$1,073	\$20,339
PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR OUT OF STATE	\$19,595 average, \$18,794 at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$8,535	\$1,137	\$1,037	\$32,329
PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR	\$27,293 average, \$30,000 at DePaul University	\$9,700	\$1,181	\$862	\$40,476

# You Can Get Financial Aid

- ▶ Unfortunately, undocumented students do not qualify for federal or state financial aid, including FAFSA or MAP.
- ▶ Do not worry, **YOU HAVE OTHER OPTIONS.** On the next page, you will find a table of financial aid options based on immigration status.

*“Look for grants, scholarships, search-- demand some help from the people you came out to.”*



- ▶ Students should consider applying for private scholarships that do not require a social security number or proof of U.S. citizenship on the application. Many of these scholarships encourage minority and undocumented applicants.

# For Which Financial Aid Options Am I Eligible?

	UNITED STATES CITIZEN	LEGAL PERMMENT RESIDENT	VISA HOLDER	UN-DOCUMENTED
FEDERAL AID	Yes	Yes	No	No
STATE AID	Yes	Yes	No	No
IN-STATE TUITION (HB-60)	Yes, if you meet IL residency	Yes, if you meet IL residency requirement	Depends on your visa; not eligible for HB 60	Yes, if eligible under HB 60
GOVERNMENT LOANS	Yes	Yes	No	No
PRIVATE LOANS	Yes	Yes	Yes, but need resident co-signer	Yes, but need resident co-signer
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Yes	Yes	No	No
INSTITUTIONAL AID	Yes	Yes	Depends on your visa and the school you attend	Depends on school you attend
WORK-STUDY	Yes	Yes	No	No
PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements
FELLOWSHIPS (ONLY GRADUATE SCHOOL)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# If You or Someone You Know Is a U.S. Citizen with at Least One Undocumented Parent

- ▶ If a student applying for financial aid is a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident, but one or more parents are undocumented, the student is eligible for federal student aid.
- ▶ However, if the parents supply a fake or stolen social security number on the form, **THE STUDENT'S FAFSA WILL BE REJECTED** when the parent's social security number fails to match their names. The FAFSA may also be rejected when the parents submit a SSN or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) that is valid for work purposes only. If the parents do not have a social security number or the social security number fails the match, they should use 000-00-0000 as their social security number on the FAFSA form.
- ▶ **DO NOT SUBMIT ANY DOCUMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE THAT CONTAIN FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION. THIS WILL CAUSE THE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION TO BE AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED.**

Source: <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented.phtml>

**START WITH**

**OUR DATABASE OF  
PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE TO  
UNDOCUMENTED  
STUDENTS LIVING IN  
ILLINOIS:**

**[WWW.ICIRR.ORG/EDUCATION](http://WWW.ICIRR.ORG/EDUCATION)**

# The Illinois DREAM Act Includes the Following Provisions

- ▶ The DREAM Act will use private funds to help undocumented students get financial aid for college tuition and allow them to participate in a college savings program.
- ▶ The fund is to be administered by an Illinois DREAM Fund Commission to be established by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and appointed by the Governor of Illinois. The DREAM commission would consist of nine unpaid members reflecting geographic and ethnic diversity and including students, college faculty and administrators, and other individuals committed to educational opportunity.

The commission would have the following responsibilities:

- Overseeing fundraising for the fund (including establishing a separate nonprofit organization to aid with fundraising)
- Publicizing the scholarships and handling applications
- Overseeing implementation of the Act's other provisions, and
- Researching educational opportunities for immigrant youth

# The Illinois DREAM Fund

The DREAM Act will use private funds to help undocumented students get financial aid for college tuition and allow them to participate in a college savings program.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE DREAM FUND REQUIREMENTS?

The Act authorizes the Illinois DREAM Fund to provide scholarships to students who:

- Have at least one immigrant parent
  - Have attended high school in Illinois for three years and
  - Have graduated from high school or received a GED in Illinois
- All money for the fund will be private; no public dollars will go toward the fund.

# PLAN FOR COLLEGE WITH THE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

The Act would also make certain state college savings programs available to immigrant youths, including the Bright Start and Bright Directions programs administered by the State Treasurer and the College Illinois pre-paid tuition program. Anyone with a valid Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) issued by the US Treasury could open an account or draw upon the account to pay for college. (The Act includes provisions to avoid conflict with current fund managers for Bright Start and Bright Directions by making the ITIN provisions effective and the end of the fund managers' current contracts.)

GO ONLINE TO SEE WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE  
FOR LOCATING SCHOLARSHIPS

**CHECK OUT THE ICIRR DATABASE  
OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO UNDOCUMENTED  
STUDENTS IN ILLINOIS LOCATED ON ICIRR.ORG AS  
WELL AS DREAMERS UNIDOS WEBSITE FOR AN  
INSTITUTIONAL AID GUIDE AT  
[WWW.DREAMERSUNIDOS.COM](http://WWW.DREAMERSUNIDOS.COM)**

# YOU CAN EARN SCHOLARSHIPS

- Thinking About Scholarship Requirements
- Questions to Ask Before Applying for a Scholarship
- The Scholarship Application Process
- Scholarship Application Final Checklist
- How to Be a Competitive Scholarship Applicant
- Writing Your Personal Statement: Telling Your Story
- Personal Essay Tips
- How and Whether To Talk About Your Immigration Status
- Different Ways to Talk About Your Immigration Status
- How to Get a Winning Letter of Recommendation  
Recommendation Timetable
- Different Ways for Recommenders to Talk About Your Immigration Status
- The Scholarship Interview Process
- Sample Questions That Might Be Asked During the Interview

# SCHOLARSHIPS ARE THE MOST COMMON WAY UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS PAY FOR COLLEGE

**Speak with your high school counselor about scholarship opportunities and go online to see what is available**

- ▶ Make sure to also speak with financial aid representatives from the colleges you are applying to about institutional aid options open to undocumented students.
- ▶ Be aware that while many scholarships are only open to US Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents, there are many scholarships available that undocumented students also qualify for.
- ▶ Find as many scholarships as possible (especially local ones) that do not require U.S. citizenship status or permanent legal residency. Local scholarships are less competitive because they limit the pool of applicants.
- ▶ Find school-specific scholarships, which are generally less competitive and more tailored to you. Look for scholarships specific to your high school, school district, community college, and/or the college you're attending.
- ▶ Ask your high school counselor, the financial aid office staff, the admissions office, and even teachers and professors who are sympathetic to you if they know of any resources.

# THINKING ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Find an advocate to help you.
- ▶ If you're uncomfortable, ask your counselor or teacher to inquire on your behalf. Make sure that whoever calls is knowledgeable about your immigration status.
- ▶ **DON'T LIE ABOUT YOUR STATUS.** If the scholarship catches you lying, your award will likely be revoked.
- ▶ If it turns out that the scholarship has specific residency requirements, **DON'T BE DISCOURAGED**; keep looking for other scholarships. Consider asking why the scholarship is not available to undocumented students; if the scholarship is not funded by the federal government, should it be available to all students who fit the talent and grade requirements?
- ▶ If you find scholarships that require a social security number or have residency requirements, you might want to ask them for more information about their requirements, if they would be willing to consider other types of applicants.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ "Are residency requirements fixed?" or "Can students who do not meet the residency requirement still apply?"
- ▶ "Do you accept the I-130 form as proof of residency?"
- ▶ Students with pending family petitions usually have a form called I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative). Although it might take years for this petition to become current, some scholarships have accepted the I-130 as proof of residency.
- ▶ "Can students use an ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) instead of a SSN (Social Security Number) to apply for this scholarship?"
- ▶ Scholarship awards can be processed with just the student's name and address. If a scholarship specifically requests a SSN, ask if it is possible to submit an ITIN instead.

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**MAKE SURE TO RESEARCH AND APPLY TO SCHOLARSHIPS EARLY** – it is ideal to start applying in the spring of junior year in high school. Many scholarships are exclusively available to high school seniors and not for college students, so make sure to start building a college fund with these high school-specific scholarships. Note: If you have good grades in high school, you should take advantage of them and apply to scholarships that are focused on academics. In general, when going on to college, even stellar students' GPAs drop dramatically, which affects their level of competitiveness.

# THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

**APPLY EARLY  
APPLY OFTEN**

Apply to every single scholarship you can. Scholarships are very competitive, especially ones that award large amounts of money. Focus on throwing your net wide and apply to as many scholarships as you can.

Once you have created a solid personal statement and gathered all the documents that scholarship applications require, you will be able to use the same materials over and over.

**PUT A LOT OF TIME AND ENERGY INTO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS.** Revise your personal statement multiple times, get feedback about your essays from multiple people, gather transcripts, income statements, etc. The more effort you put in, the better your scholarship packet will be and the higher the likelihood of winning the award.

**RESEARCH THE PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION** offering the scholarship to understand what they are looking for in applicants. If you clearly articulate why you're a good fit for a particular organization, you help the selection committee in choosing you as the right candidate.

Make sure to use concrete examples when you write about your strengths, but never write in an arrogant manner. Don't act like you know what's best for the scholarship organization.

## ► BE EXPLICIT IN TELLING YOUR STORY

The personal statement is what will set you apart from all other applicants. Don't hesitate to talk about your immigration status. Tips for how to share your story can be found in the "Writing Your Personal Statement" section.

## ► ANSWER QUESTIONS CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY

Type and proofread essays. Spelling mistakes and bad grammar turn readers off. Express yourself clearly and concisely. Adhere to the word and page limits. Have at least two people look over your personal statements. More than three people will give you too many opinions to juggle. If English is not your first language, ask for your English teacher's help.

**NOTE:** Scholarships may ask you to submit a FAFSA to prove financial need by printing it out and mailing it to them and not sending a copy to the government. If they ask you to do this, it may be because it is their only way to measure financial aid, so make sure that if you send the form to them that you **DO NOT SEND ONE TO THE GOVERNMENT.**

## ► STATE YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS – DON'T BE SHY ABOUT IT

Even scholarships that are not need-based should know your financial needs. If you are high-need and high-merit, you have been able to persevere despite numerous challenges and should highlight this in your essay. Here's how you might talk about your situation: Are you expecting family assistance to pay for college? What would happen if you did not get this scholarship? How would your financial limitations impact your academics and/or your chance to finish your education? Caution: there is a fine line between begging and showing that you are worth funding. Do not cross the begging line. It does not make you look good to the scholarship committee; it makes you look like you are a risk not worth taking and that you don't have a solid plan for achieving your academic goals.

► MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATION IS CONSISTENTLY WELL PUT TOGETHER. It's all about the package. As soon as you're about to finish the scholarship application, READ OVER ALL THE APPLICATION MATERIALS to see if they reflect who you are as a whole. Materials should complement one another. DO A FINAL CHECKLIST to ensure that you have enclosed all necessary documents needed. Make sure your scholarship application is signed.

## **Before Mailing In, Do A Final Check!**

- ✓ Is your application filled out completely?
- ✓ Have you signed your application?
- ✓ Do you have all required documents?
  - ✓ Transcripts?
  - ✓ Proof of income?
  - ✓ Essay?
- ✓ Have you proofread and edited your essays?
- ✓ Did you follow the essay guidelines?
- ✓ Reread the whole package
- ✓ Send it in **WAY BEFORE THE DEADLINE**

# HOW TO BE A COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT

## ▶ STAND OUT

Private scholarships are very competitive. If you're applying to them, it's crucial that you do as much as possible to show that you are more qualified and unique than other applicants.

## ▶ DO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Do community service or special programs such as internships, youth boards, and community college classes during the summer. Do community service EVERY year of high school. Do not wait until junior or senior year to start. Your counselors could also work with you starting in 9th grade to identify your interests and passions and connect you with activities that have to do with these interests. If there are no opportunities, then start your own club at your school.

## ▶ TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES

You don't have to be the class president, but you could try to be captain or co-captain of the sports team and/or take on a leadership role in clubs.

## ▶ START GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH INTERVIEWS.

Many private scholarships require a face-to-face interview. You should practice public speaking before senior year. Practice questions that may be asked and practice telling "your story" to others before senior year. Ask your counselors to do workshops on interviewing and sharing testimonials.

# WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

## Telling Your Story

The personal statement is the opportunity to make yourself **STAND OUT FROM OTHER APPLICANTS**. Make sure your essay tells readers something they would not have otherwise found out in your application. Tell a story. Show or demonstrate an experience through concrete examples. If your statement is fresh, lively and different, the selection committee will remember you and put you on the top of the pile. The most memorable paragraph is the opening one, so focus on that one.

The opening paragraph is where you can **GRAB THE READER'S ATTENTION**. Or you can make the reader yawn and say "What's this applicant's name again?"

**MAKE  
YOURSELF  
STAND  
OUT**

**DISTINGUISH YOURSELF** from other applicants right away.

Topic-Specific Essay Tips: Some scholarships might ask you to write an essay, rather than a personal statement. **MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ESSAY DIRECTLY ADDRESSES THE TOPIC** and that you aren't simply pasting on a new topic sentence to an old essay. By all means, use sections of your personal statement, but don't just copy and paste it.

# PERSONAL ESSAY TIPS

Usually instructions for writing personal essays are very general, such as "Tell us a little bit about yourself," or "What is important for us to know about you?" The broadness of this topic can be overwhelming. Here are some questions to help you brainstorm some ideas:

- What is special, unique, and/or impressive about you or your life stories?
- Have you ever had to overcome unusual obstacles or hardships (economical, familial, physical)? What have you learned from these challenges?
- What details of your life will help the reader better understand you and set you apart from others? You might include personal challenges, personal history, people or events that have shaped and influenced you and your life goals.
- How are you the best fit for the scholarship? What have you done to prove that you are worth this scholarship's funding?
- What are your personal, academic, and professional goals? What has led you to pursue these goals?
- How have you contributed to the community (extracurricular activities, community involvement, family responsibilities, employment)? What have you learned from these experiences?

- Are there any gaps or discrepancies in your academic record that you should explain?
- Why might you be a stronger candidate or more successful in your chosen profession or field than other applicants?

**FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY ADHERE TO  
WORD AND PAGE LIMITS, FORMATTING  
REQUIREMENTS AND SUBJECT GUIDELINES**

Keep in mind that selection committees will be reading multiple applications, and you do not want to be penalized because you went over the page limit. That being said, make sure to use all the available space they give you.

- What are the most compelling reasons you can give to the scholarship committee to be interested in you?
- How do you plan to give back to your community once you finish your education?

# HOW AND WHETHER TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT HOW YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR STATUS. You do not want to sound like a victim but rather like someone who has overcome challenges and succeeded.

Don't have it be the main topic (unless you know that the scholarship specifically is looking for undocumented students). You not want your status to overshadow your academic accomplishments and aspirations.

## PROS & CONS TO REVEALING YOUR STATUS TO A SCHOLARSHIP

### PROS:

- You want people to be aware of the challenges you've faced and how you've overcome them
- You want to be able to write from the heart about what makes you unique without leaving out a huge part of who you are
- You want people to be aware of your financial need
- You want people to be aware of your motivations

### CONS:

- You don't want your immigration status to define you
- You don't want your status to overshadow your accomplishments
- You don't want to sound like a victim
- You don't want to alienate someone who isn't familiar with immigration issues

# DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

Emphasize that you've grown up here, it wasn't your decision to come to the United States, you want to remain in the United States, you want to become a U.S. citizen, etc.

## LESS DIRECT:

Even though I was not eligible for federal or state financial aid because of my immigration status, I don't want money to impede my future education goals. I might not have enough economical resources to pay for all the expenses a university requires, but I do have the hunger for learning and for getting the higher education a university can offer.

## MORE DIRECT:

In order for one to understand who I am, it is critical that one knows my history. My name is Victor and I was born in Santa Gertrudis, Oaxaca, Mexico: a poor village where residents walk on sun-beaten, unpaved streets, and walk in night's darkness due to the lack of streetlights. My childhood is filled with memories of dirt-streets, no potable water, and acres of corn and alfalfa fields. Unfortunately, my family and I were forced to leave Santa Gertrudis, Oaxaca due to a traumatizing event, and immigrate into the U.S. without papers.

# HOW TO GET A WINNING LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Identify and speak to potential recommendation writers EARLY in the process.

Arrange talks with potential recommenders

Decide on best recommenders for you

**DO NOT WAIT  
UNTIL THE  
LAST MINUTE**

## **TIMETABLE**

**LOOK AT YOUR DUE DATE  
AND WORK BACKWARDS**

2 months before:

Ask for a letters of recommendation

*At Least* 1 month before: Give recommendation forms to your recommenders

*At Least* 1 week before:

Politely remind recommenders about the letter

## **TEACHERS ARE VERY BUSY**

Make their jobs as easy as possible. Give them a copy of your personal statement (even if it's just a draft), a list of your accomplishments/achievements/awards/extra-curriculars. Let them know what you'd like them to highlight/emphasize about you.

**PROVIDING THIS  
INFORMATION IS NOT  
OVERBEARING; IT IS HELPFUL.**

Update your recommenders on the scholarship selection process -- if you have been selected for an interview, if you have been awarded the scholarship, etc.

Remember to thank you recommenders!

# DIFFERENT WAYS FOR RECOMMENDERS TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

## LESS DIRECT:

Yoshi works harder than any student I have ever taught. She is more determined than any student I have ever taught. Her heart is filled with positive energy. Her mind races to accumulate and assimilate new information. And she faces heart-braking obstacles—poverty, immigration status, financial independence since was sixteen, an utter lack of local family support and an almost untenable living situation with a generally uninterested aunt. She works so hard for herself because she feels she has no choice but to continually learn and grow so that one day she may be of great service to others. As difficult as her path has been and will continue to be, it is her goal to ease the path for those who come after her.

## MORE DIRECT:

Luis is a non-native English speaker and an undocumented immigrant who will also be the first in his family to graduate from high school and attend a four-year college. And he will graduate—that's the type of person Luis is. Luis turned his back on the drugs and violence in his community to face the challenges of preparing for a post-secondary education. More aware and introspective than most young adults, Luis has realized that competing with more privileged students at the college level requires him to compensate for the inequities of life in East Palo Alto by preparing better and working harder.

- ▶ Make information clear to recommenders. Pull together all scholarship info (scholarship name, your full name, due date, address to be mailed). Add information about the scholarship and its requirements and priorities.
- ▶ Make sure they are addressing recommendations correctly. Don't use a recommendation written for a different scholarship without changing the name of the scholarship throughout!
- ▶ Make sure your recommender is knowledgeable about you and can speak highly of your academic accomplishments, strengths, interests, academic and professional goals.
- ▶ Have an open talk with recommenders about your need for money and your immigration status. This is especially important if you are not comfortable talking about your status, since your recommenders can do so for you. It is important for them to fully understand your situation so they can advocate for you effectively. If you think your recommender is not supportive of you because of your immigration status, find a new one.
- ▶ Don't be afraid to ask recommenders to submit recommendations for multiple scholarships. Once they've written on recommendation, it's easy for them to modify it. Update them on your progress (whether or not you've been awarded scholarships).
- ▶ Ask recommenders if they will share a copy of their recommendation with you. If so, ask them for a "generic" recommendation (not addressed to any particular scholarship fund) that you can have on file and use if necessary.
- ▶ If you're a college student, it's okay for you to ask my high school teacher to recommend you, but ideally you should have a current instructor write you a recommendation. However, it is better to have a former teacher who knows you well rather than someone who doesn't know you very well. If you ask a former teacher, make sure to update them on your current activities and progress in school, so they can update their old recommendation letter. Stay in touch with your former mentors and teachers!

# THE SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW PROCESS

## GETTING READY FOR THE INTERVIEW

- ▶ Make sure you know the interview time and location, and how to get there
- ▶ Do a mock interview with a teacher, counselor, or mentor
- ▶ Dress nicely
- ▶ LEARN ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP (background of funders, key people involved, activities required of recipients)
- ▶ Have questions ready to ask interviewers (you can ask them about one of the organization's programs that you might be interested in or other specific questions about the organization)
- ▶ Think of three things you definitely want to tell your interviewers (make sure you talk about these three things)

## THE INTERVIEW

Be early; know the location ahead of time

Shake hands with every person firmly and confidently

Say thank you  
AT LEAST once

Look your interviewer in the eye

Be prepared to ASK questions if it is appropriate and if you are invited to.

- ▶ Prepare your resume, bring it to the interview (in case they want to look at it) and read through it so you remember what your experiences/responsibilities were.
- ▶ If you can, prepare a budget with your academic and personal expenses, committed/pending funds, and unmet need and bring copies of it to the interview.

# SAMPLE QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE ASKED DURING THE INTERVIEW

- Why did you apply to this scholarship?
- What makes you stand out from all other candidates?
- How will you be able to contribute to our community?
- Tell us about one event or person in your life that shaped you?
- Talk about your academic achievements/aspirations.
- Talk about your community involvement.

## YOU MAY BE ASKED IF YOU PLAN ON BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN

This can be an awkward question to answer. You can say a simple yes, or if you want to be more direct, you can elaborate by saying that you want to become a citizen but don't see it becoming possible unless the DREAM Act is passed. It's up to you to say what you feel comfortable with.

## AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Send a thank-you note, preferably by mail, but sending one by email is better than no thank-you at all.
- If You Are Awarded A Scholarship, send another thank-you note to all your recommenders
- Follow up regularly with donors

# Applying to Private Colleges

- ▶ Private colleges can often provide undocumented students with more funds than public colleges and universities. A few undocumented students have been able to get full rides at prestigious institutions such as Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Brown. Other students have been able to get substantial awards but not enough to pay their full college expenses.
- ▶ Generally, the application process to private colleges is very competitive, and undocumented students are treated as international students.
- ▶ Contact private schools individually to find out about their policies for undocumented students.
- ▶ Admission offices may be helpful. Often a multicultural student representative and/or international student representative will be familiar with issues related to undocumented students.
- ▶ Financial aid offices are usually more helpful. Speak to a financial aid director or counselor directly.
- ▶ See the next page for a list of sample questions to ask private schools. If you are not comfortable talking to admissions and/or financial aid offices, ask your teacher or counselor to call on your behalf.

# Sample Questions for Private Schools

1. Do you offer any institutional scholarships for undocumented students? What about private scholarships?
2. What are the names of these scholarships and how much money do they provide?
3. Do you have any scholarships for transfer students?
4. What is the application process for these scholarships? Deadlines, essays, letters of recommendation, etc.? school?
5. Do you require that the student submit a paper FAFSA?
6. Are there certain qualifications needed to apply for these scholarships, i.e. GPA, SAT/ACT scores or community service requirements?
7. Are these scholarships good for the entire time the student is at your school? What if it takes 5 years to graduate?
8. What does the student need to do to keep the scholarship?
9. Can the student lose the scholarship money if he/she gets poor grades?
10. Is there a website or brochure outlining more information about these scholarships?
11. How will the student know if they are awarded one of these scholarships?
12. Anything else we should know when helping undocumented students apply to your school?

# SCHOLARSHIP DATABASES

GO ONLINE

SEE WHAT RESOURCES ARE  
AVAILABLE FOR FINDING  
SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ Check out ICIRR's database of scholarships for undocumented students in Illinois ([ICIRR.org/education](http://ICIRR.org/education)) AND GO TO
- ▶ Dreamers Unidos' website for information about institutional aid ([dreamersunidos.com](http://dreamersunidos.com))

# THE FEDERAL DREAM ACT

- ▶ The Federal DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) is a bill that would grant some undocumented students who have arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16 a pathway toward citizenship if they complete two years of higher education or service in the military
- ▶ Illinois Senator Richard Durbin recently reintroduced this bill
- ▶ Undocumented people who have publicly “come out” about their undocumented status, such as IYJL members in Chicago or Jose Vargas in his *New York Times* article as well as hundreds of others across the nation, have helped build the movement to support the DREAM Act
- ▶ We encourage you to tell your story, engage the media, and contact congressional leaders to gain support and build the movement in your community

# What to Do If You Have a Problem

Contact the Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) or the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) if you run into difficulties:

- ▶ A counselor who says you can't go to college
- ▶ A university that says you can't apply as an undocumented student
- ▶ A public university that does not provide in-state tuition

## IF YOU ARE AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT AND YOU END UP IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS:

- ▶ Call the ICIRR Family Support Hotline: 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY

The Family Support Hotline is designed to help families across Illinois experiencing deportation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is not a legal advice hotline. It does however, refer callers to lawyers trusted by ICIRR who will provide a free first consultation. Other services of the hotline include referral to social services that may be available, citizenship services, ministry referral, and post-call accompaniment by ICIRR's Family Support Network.

- ▶ Reach out to organizations like [endnow.org](http://endnow.org) for guides on how to fight removal proceedings
- ▶ Contact one of your support networks/organizations for advice

# CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We hope this guide offers you some valuable advice for your college search process. It has been carefully compiled with the help of community groups (like the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights), educators (like Educators for Fair Consideration, [e4fc.org](http://e4fc.org)), and of course undocumented students (like those from the Immigrant Youth Justice League). We do not know all the answers, and this guide is a work-in-progress. If you still have questions after reading this, please reach out to us – our contact information is on the previous pages.

We have seen the deep struggles faced by undocumented students, and we have also seen triumphant successes. You should not feel ashamed of yourself or your family. We believe in you and your future, and we hope you enjoy this guide.

# Appendix

<b>School</b>	<b>Admission Contact Person</b>	<b>Merit-based Scholarships</b>	<b>Need-based Financial Aid</b>	<b>Citizenship Question on Application</b>	<b>Social Security # on Application</b>	<b>Waive Application Fee</b>
AURORA UNIVERSITY	Jill Bures, (680) 844-3849 jbures@aurora.edu	Between \$2,000-\$10,000	They assist students in scholarship search	Answer non-citizen	All zeros	Free online application
BRADLEY UNIVERSITY	Monica Evans, mcevans@bradley.edu (800) 447-6460, RC San Jose, Rodney@bradley.edu (800) 447-6460	Presidential Scholarship, Deans Scholarship, University Scholarship, Provost-Garret Scholarship	Only accept the FAFSA	Can mark not a citizen.	Leave it blank	Free online application
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	John Martinez, Associate Director (773) 995-3578 jr-martinez1@csu.edu	For Latino students who meet criteria, including at least 18 on ACT and 3.0/4.0 GPA	Application for the Latino Resource Center Scholarship	On paper application, request consideration under Illinois Public Act 93-007	Leave it blank, CSU will create a school ID	Yes, but signature page should be printed and mailed
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE	Saraliz Jimenez, Admissions Specialist (630) 942-3039 jimene@cod.edu			Enter "other"	On paper application, leave blank. Call university for assigned ID number to fill in online application	Documentation must be included for application fee waiver to be considered

<b>School</b>	<b>Admission Contact Person</b>	<b>Merit-based Scholarships</b>	<b>Need-based Financial Aid</b>	<b>Citizenship Question on Application</b>	<b>Social Security # on Application</b>	<b>Waive Application Fee</b>
COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY	Sergio Dominguez, Admissions Rep (847) 543-2389 sdominguez@clcillinois.edu	Yes, requirements vary	Fill out CLC Scholarship application	Can't leave question blank, answer "non-citizen"	Use zeros or write in "none"	No application fee
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY	Contact the Multicultural Recruitment Coordinator	Merit-based scholarships available, qualifications vary by scholarship and college	Can meet with financial aid advisor	Option to chose "non-U.S citizen" on application	Not required	Can submit application without fee, then submit fee waiver with supplemental materials
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY	Glenn Hamilton (708) 524-6795 Hamilton@dom.edu	Merit-based scholarships range from \$6,000-\$15,000 annually. Top candidates can be eligible for the Presidential Scholarships and the Dean's Scholarship	Students can submit a FAFSA directly to the university	Leave the question blank	Use all zeros	Online application free
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	Brenda Major (217) 581-5933 bmajor@eiu.edu, or Juanita Cross jcross@eiu.edu	The university works to assist students to find private, merit-based scholarship funds	EIU does not have institutional financial aid application	They should put "undocumented" both on paper copy and online applications. No penalty for leaving it blank, application is still processed	Enter all zeros	Must submit a paper application to waive the application fee

<b>School</b>	<b>Admission Contact Person</b>	<b>Merit-based Scholarships</b>	<b>Need-based Financial Aid</b>	<b>Citizenship Question on Application</b>	<b>Social Security # on Application</b>	<b>Waive Application Fee</b>
ELMHURST COLLEGE	Stephanie Levenson (630) 617-3354 slevenson@elmhurst.edu	Merit-based scholarships between \$5,000-\$19,000, typical criteria are 3.5/4.0 GPA and 25 ACT		Application asks yes/no if citizen. Then asks country of residency, may explain status.	Not required, leave blank.	No application fee.
ILLINOIS COLLEGE	Rick Bystry (217) 245-3030 rlbys-try@ic.edu	Merit-based scholarships range from \$5,000 to full tuition	Not currently available	Answer “non-citizen”	Leave blank	No application fee
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	Carolyn Schoen (312) 567-6940 schoen@iit.edu	Available merit-based scholarships include Heald Scholarships (up to \$10,000), IIT University Scholarship (up to \$10,000), and Camras Scholarship (full-tuition)	Only students who complete FAFSA are eligible for need-based financial aid, but all students are automatically reviewed for merit-based aid	Leave the question blank	Leave blank	Online application free
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY	Dave Marcial dmarcia@ilstu.edu (309) 438-2181	Presidential Scholarship \$8,000, University Scholarship \$5,000, and community college transfer scholarships \$1,500	ISU encourages students to search for scholarships and offer alternative loan options	Includes option to identify as “un-documented”	Do not need to enter SSN	Submit application, then counselor must submit request proving that student is eligible

<b>School</b>	<b>Admission Contact Person</b>	<b>Merit-based Scholarships</b>	<b>Need-based Financial Aid</b>	<b>Citizenship Question on Application</b>	<b>Social Security # on Application</b>	<b>Waive Application Fee</b>
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	Nancy Vasquez nvasquez@iwu.edu (800) 332-2498	Range from \$7,000-\$12,000, small number of full-tuition awards in music (primarily string instruments)	Offers institutional need-based grants for undocumented students	Mark "non-citizen" or leave the question blank	Enter zeros	No application fee
KNOX COLLEGE	Jill Bisbee, Director of Admission 309/341-7100 ext. 7148 jbisbee@knox.edu	Knox considers undocumented students for merit-based scholarships just as any other applicants	Maximum standard award of half comprehensive fee. There is a limited number of larger awards. Should mail in paper version of FAFSA	Select "Other" and indicate country(ies) of citizenship or indicate "Stateless." Under visa type, select "I do not hold a non-immigrant Visa"	Leave it blank	Can waive fee
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE	Bill Motzer, Vice President for Admissions and Career Services 847-735-5011 motzer@lakeforest.edu; Susan Langner, Associate Director of Admissions 847-735-5012 langner@lakeforest.edu	Guaranteed \$12,000 In-State Scholarship to all Illinois students admitted to the College. Can apply for Forester Scholarship (academic or talent-based awards) for up to \$8,000 per year	Up to \$24,000. Submit Lake Forest FASTAPP or Lake Forest International Student Application for Financial Aid	Answer "Other"	Not required field	Free online application at <a href="http://www.lakeforestedge.org">www.lakeforestedge.org</a> . Can submit fee waiver for online Common Application

<b>School</b>	<b>Admission Contact Person</b>	<b>Merit-based Scholarships</b>	<b>Need-based Financial Aid</b>	<b>Citizenship Question on Application</b>	<b>Social Security # on Application</b>	<b>Waive Application Fee</b>
LEWIS UNIVERSITY	Andrew B. Sison, Dean of Undergraduate Admission 815-836-5684 sisonan@lewisu.edu	Scholarships available, but not for room and board	Not available	Choices regarding citizenship are YES, NO, or RESIDENT ALIEN	Valid SSN required for online application. Use zeros on printed application	Do not file online
LINCOLN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY	Palmer H. Muntz, Enrollment Management Consultant and Director of Undergraduate Admissions 888-522-5228 ext. 2223 phmuntz@lincolnchristian.edu	Academic and multicultural scholarships starting at \$2000 per year	Unlikely to be awarded to an undocumented student	Answer "Other" on new application	Not required	
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY	N/A. They work with students based on high school attended	Based on set academic criteria	Through FAFSA	Choices regarding citizenship are US citizen, US Permanent Resident, or Other [select other if undocumented].	Not required.	Free online application.

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NORTH-EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	No specific person. Contact 773-442-4050	Not available	Not available	Option for non-citizens	Leave blank	Fee waivers can only be submitted on paper due to required counselor signatures
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	Robert Burk, Director and Wendy Raver, Associate Director 815-753-0446 admissions@niu.edu	Any scholarship that does not require FAFSA is available for undocumented students	See scholarship application	Answer question as non-citizen	Leave blank	Can waive fee
NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE	Martha Stolze, Director of Admission 630-637-5800 mastolze@noctrl.edu	Awarded based on academic indicators	Comparable to offers to international students. It is asked to complete an institutional profile and to submit income documents (i.e. W-2's, 1040's)	Leave blank	Complete paper application. Online application will not accept a blank SSN	No application fee
OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Michele Brown, Director of Admission mbrown@oakton.edu 845-635-1981	Few merit based scholarships for which undocumented students may apply	Text book voucher program	Mark "undocumented"	Complete paper application and leave blank	Application fee added to tuition bill

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ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY	Mike Dessimoz, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services 312-341-2121 mdessimoz@roosevelt.edu	Based on curriculum, cumulative GPA, and composite test results		Mark "Other" or leave blank	Leave blank	Can waive fee
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY (CARBONDALE)	Bob Quane quane@siu.edu or Rey Diaz rdiaz@siu.edu	Available	Only through FAFSA	Mark "Requesting consideration under Public Law 93-007"	Leave blank	Can waive fee
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY (EDWARDSVILLE)	Todd Burrell, Director of Admissions tburrell@siue.edu; Terri Montgomery, Associate Director of Admissions tmontgo@siue.edu; Shauna Lehman, Assistant Director of Admissions slehman@siue.edu 800-447-SIUE	Can apply for Meridian Scholarship for full tuition/fees, room and board; minimum 27 on ACT (or SAT equivalent) required. Also private and departmental scholarships available.	FAFSA required	Mark "Requesting consideration under Public Law 93-7"	Leave blank	Fee can be waived by mailing fee waiver to Office of Admissions

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (URBANA-CHAMPAIGN)	Gregg Perry, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions 217-333-0302 gperry@illinois.edu	Some merit-based scholarships	Not available	Mark "Non-citizen-Other"	Leave blank	Submit fee waiver form by mail
UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS	Eric Ruiz, Undergraduate Admission Counselor 815-740-5070 eruiz@stfrancis.edu	Merit scholarships have minimum requirement of 2.5/4.0 GPA and 20 on ACT. Between \$6,000 and full tuition	Work with on case-by-case basis	No citizenship question	Enter zeros	Free online application
WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	Eric Campbell, Director of Admissions 309-298-1965 e-campbell@wiu.edu	Merit-based scholarships available	Need-based aid available	Mark non-citizen and asking for consideration under Illinois Public ACT 93-7 (until application is changed next year)	Use paper application and leave blank	Can waive fee

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CORNELL COLLEGE	Marie Schofer, Senior Assistant Director of Admission, International Student Recruitment Coordinator 319-895-4159 or 800-747-1112 mschofer@cornellcollege.edu	Undocumented students are eligible for the same scholarships and grants as international students, \$5,000 to full tuition	Complete International Students Application for Financial Aid through College Board	Mark "non-citizen"	Leave blank	Fee waived through Common Application before December 1. Fee waivers are also considered
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	Robert Blust, Dean of Admissions 414-288-7302	May compete for merit-based scholarships along with all other applicants.	Not available	Mark "Other"	Enter zeros	Online application free
NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	Gerri Daniels, Director of Admissions 800-682-9797 or 906-227-2650 gdaniels@nmu.edu	Not available	Not available	Answer "no" to both U.S. Citizen and U.S. Permanent Resident. Provide information in the comments section	Leave blank	Can waive fee

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SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY	Office of International Services 314-977-2318 icadmit@slu.edu.  Offers immigration counseling and assistance in scholarship searches	\$3,000 to \$15,000 per academic year, primarily based on academic performance. Undocumented students also qualify for Presidential and Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships, requiring an additional application	Not available	Answer “What will your visa type or immigration status be while studying at Saint Louis University?” Most undocumented students select “Non-resident Alien”	Enter zeros or leave blank if selected non-citizen	Online application free
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY	Whitney Vitale, Associate Director of Admissions whitney.vitale@shu.edu	Based on GPA (starting around 3.0) and SAT/ACT scores starting around 1650 SAT and 23 ACT. \$8,000 and up	Not available	Mark “I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident” and then under visa mark “Other”	Leave blank	Online application free until December 15. Can waive fee after with paper application
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE	Joel Buschmann, Assistant Director of Admissions Ph: 262-595-2496 Fax 262-595-2008 joel.buschmann@uwp.edu	Fill out scholarship application by February 1	Offer remissions (difference between in and out of state tuition) to undocumented students who have strong academic backgrounds		Leave blank	Can waive fee

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WARTBURG COLLEGE	Edith Waldstein, VP for Enrollment Management 319-352-8335 edith.waldstein@wartburg.edu	Merit-based scholarships available	Available. Complete CSS Profile	Mark non-citizen	Enter zeros or leave blank	No application fee