



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

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**State warns students not to miss April 15 deadline for college financial aid**  
*Expanded 'Workforce Ready Grant' offers new option for all Indiana high school grads*

More than \$300 million in state aid for college is available to Indiana students who file the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by April 15, 2018. Just over half (51 percent) of high school seniors filed the FAFSA in 2017, but there's a new reason for them to do so this year: tuition-free training for high-demand jobs—regardless of family income—through the state's expanded Workforce Ready Grant.

"Filing the FAFSA is an essential step for any prospective college student—whether they're a high school senior or a returning adult," Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers said. "Every student should file the FAFSA, but there's never been a better time to do so in Indiana with the Workforce Ready Grant now open to all high school graduates."

The Indiana General Assembly created the [Workforce Ready Grant](#) in 2017 for financially-independent students, typically age 24 years and older. This week state lawmakers expanded the program to all high school graduates 18 years and older to help more Hoosiers afford education and training beyond high school and to meet the skills needs of Indiana employers.

Each year, thousands of Hoosier students fail to receive financial aid due to missing the state's April 15<sup>th</sup> filing deadline or from not filing at all. In addition to determining eligibility for state and federal financial aid, colleges use the FAFSA to award their merit and need-based scholarships. The FAFSA deadline is particularly important for Indiana's [21st Century Scholars](#) who must file on time to earn the state scholarship that pays for up to four years of college tuition.

**Filing the FAFSA**

The fastest and easiest way to file the FAFSA is online at [FAFSA.gov](#). To complete the FAFSA, you will need: 1) Your **Social Security Number**; 2) Your **2016 federal income tax returns**, W-2s, and other records of money earned; and 3) An **FSA ID** to sign electronically. NOTE: Dependent students need this same information for their parent(s). The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at **800-4FED-AID**.

**More FAFSA Help for Hoosiers**

Hoosier families can also find FAFSA help through INvestEd Indiana at [INvestEdindiana.org](#), by phone at **888-476-2006** or via email ([outreach@investedindiana.org](mailto:outreach@investedindiana.org)). For questions about state financial aid, please contact the Commission by phone at **888-528-4719** or via email at [awards@che.in.gov](mailto:awards@che.in.gov).