

MEDIA CONTACT:

Charlee Beasor at (765) 720-0342 or CBeasor@che.in.gov
Jess Nejad at (812) 499-0771 or JNejad@che.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State Offering Free Virtual FAFSA Filing Help for Students, Families on April 4

April 15 deadline to file for student financial aid eligibility swiftly approaching

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is encouraging all students to file the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before the approaching April 15, 2020 deadline. As part of the state's annual Cash for College campaign, the Commission is joining with INvestED Indiana to host a virtual FAFSA Frenzy event on Saturday, April 4.

The annual FAFSA Frenzy is typically held in person, however, the event will be held virtually to maintain the health and safety of Hoosiers during the COVID-19 outbreak and to follow Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb's executive orders surrounding staying at home and social distancing.

Students and families can seek assistance through the Commission's Learn More Indiana social media platforms, which will be manned by Commission staff members during the live event. Staff will be answering common FAFSA questions and posting videos about the FAFSA. Follow along on social media with the #FAFSAFrenzyIN hashtag.

WHAT: Indiana FAFSA Frenzy Virtual Event

WHO: Indiana Commission for Higher Education Outreach staff

INvestED Indiana team members

WHEN: Saturday, April 4, 2020

1-3 p.m. (ET)

WHERE: Online: Learn More Indiana social media accounts on Facebook (<u>facebook.com/LearnMoreIN</u>),

Instagram (@LearnMoreIndiana) and Twitter (@LearnMoreIN)

By text and phone: To best serve the state, the Commission has split the state into eight regions. A full list of counties and associated numbers is available at www.learnmoreindiana.org. Reach INVESTED any

time at (317) 715-9007 for free assistance with the FAFSA.

¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame al 317-232-1072 o 317-617-0318.

Note: Please note, do not share your Social Security Number or other private information over social media. Please be patient during the event. If you cannot get ahold of someone by phone, leave a voicemail and they will return your call when they are available.

Students and families can contact the Commission's Outreach staff and the INvestED team at any time, even after the virtual event concludes.

Assistance with filing the FAFSA is open to anyone – regardless of age – planning to attend or thinking of attending college or some form of postsecondary education in the fall. Filing the FAFSA is an important step in the postsecondary enrollment process for all Hoosier students and families – despite socioeconomic status. Having a current FAFSA on file ensures college is as affordable as possible and opens up opportunities for federal, state and institutional financial aid.

Information needed to file the FAFSA

- Federal Student Aid ID (the FSA ID is a username and password created through the FAFSA website)
- Social Security number
- Driver's license number
- Student and parents' or guardians' most recent federal tax returns (IRS forms 1040, 1040EZ or 1040A); students under age 23 require a parents' or guardians' information in addition to their own
- Records of money earned, including W-2 forms and recent bank statements
- Alien registration numbers or permanent residence cards, if students or parents/guardians are not U.S. citizens.

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the 21st Century Scholars early college promise scholarship, which celebrates 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's *Reaching Higher in a State of Change* strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.