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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FAFSA Deadline Extended for Indiana Counties Under Disaster Emergency Declaration**  
*Students in the affected counties are urged to file the FAFSA by May 15*

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](https://www.in.gov/che/) extended the priority deadline to file the 2023-24 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](https://www.in.gov/che/) for students living in the [seven Indiana counties](https://www.in.gov/che/) under disaster emergency declaration which include Benton, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Sullivan and White. Students in the affected counties are encouraged to file the FAFSA by May 15, 2023, to maximize financial aid opportunities.

“On behalf of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, I want to extend my condolences to those affected by the recent storms,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. “To ensure all Hoosier students living in the seven impacted counties have the opportunity to take advantage of Indiana’s generous financial aid programs, we are extending the state’s FAFSA filing deadline.”

Students in counties not affected by the disaster emergencies should be reminded that Indiana’s priority deadline to file the FAFSA was April 15. State aid is now being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so Hoosiers who have not completed the FAFSA should do so as soon as possible.

Indiana colleges and universities may have different FAFSA filing deadlines. Students should contact institutional financial aid offices if deadlines were missed to discuss options for appeals if there were extenuating circumstances.

**How to file the FAFSA**

Students can file the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). The first step for students who have not previously filed the FAFSA is to create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. Then, each student will need:

- Social Security number
- Alien Registration number (for non-U.S. citizens)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned from 2021
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

**Assistance is available**

- The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Hoosier families can also access free FAFSA help through INvestEd by email ([outreach@investedindiana.org](mailto:outreach@investedindiana.org)) or phone at 317-715-9007. ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame 317-715-9007.
- The Commission’s eight outreach coordinators are available via phone or email. A full list of counties and associated numbers are available [here](https://www.in.gov/che/).

### **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 celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's Reaching Higher in a State of Change strategic plan at [www.in.gov/che](http://www.in.gov/che).