

## Financial Aid 101

### **Your Presenter**



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### **Q & A**

 We will be taking questions using the Q&A feature at the end of the presentation.



 Click the ? symbol to see the feature box on the right of your screen.

## **Topics**

- What is Financial Aid
- Aid sources available
- How do I apply
- What happens next
- Options to fund the gap



### What Is Financial Aid?



Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses.

### Types of Aid:

- Merit Scholarships (Free Money)
- Grants/Scholarships (Need-Based-Free Money)
- Self-Help (Loans, Work, Savings, etc.)

## **Funding Sources**



## **Federal Government**



## **State Government**



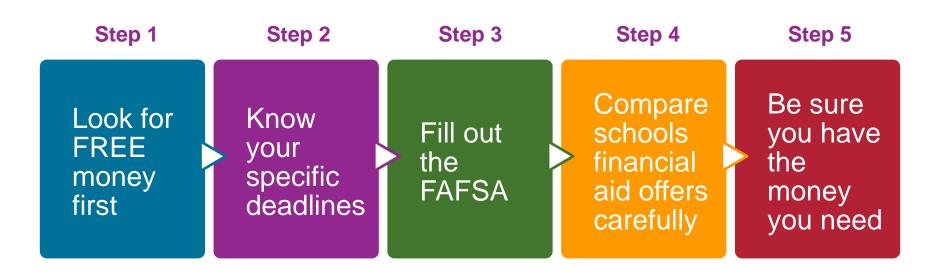
## School or College



## Scholarships

## **Financial Aid Made Simple**

### **5 Steps to Financial Aid**





### Start with the FORMS

### **FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Required by ALL Schools, PHEAA and some scholarship organizations
- Required every year attending

### STATE GRANT FORM through PHEAA

Required first year for all students

#### Some schools require additional forms:

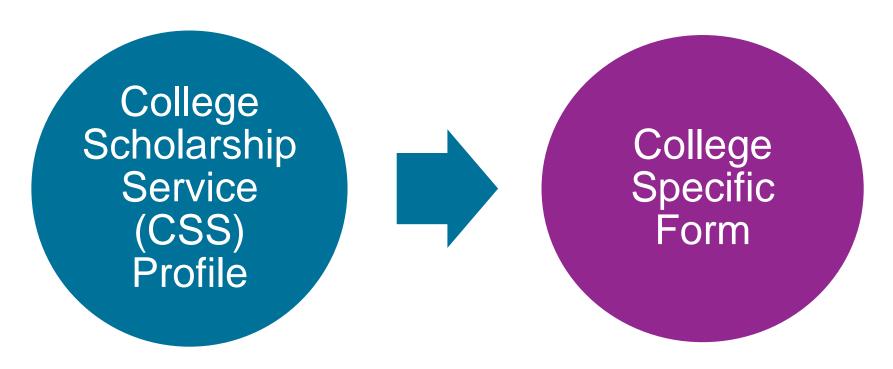
CSS Profile – through the College Board; additional fees
Institutional Financial Aid Forms - through a specific school

KNOW WHAT FORMS EACH SCHOOL REQUIRES

# Other Forms You May Need to Complete

Check with your school





### **CSS Profile**





CSS Profile

- College Scholarship Service Profile
- Created/Maintained by the College Board
- Required at Some Institutions & Scholarship Organizations – 400 Across the US
- Used in Addition to the FAFSA, not a Replacement
- Used to Award Need Based & Institutional Aid
- Also Complete the FAFSA for Federal Aid options
- CSS Profile Costs \$25.00 + \$16.00 for Additional Schools — A Waiver May be Available for Domestic Students

https://www.collegeboard.org/

### **Know Your Deadlines**



Federal Deadlines - Apply anytime after

October 1 in the year prior to when you will attend school

(AY 2021-22: 10/1/20 to 6/30/22)

School Deadlines - vary, check websites!



#### PA State Grant Deadlines for FAFSA

May 1, 2021 - First-time and renewal students attending colleges, universities & college transferrable programs (excluding community colleges)

August 1, 2021 – First-time students attending community college; a business, trade or technical schools, hospital school of nursing; Open Admissions Institutions or a 2-year non-transferrable degree program at a Jr or 4-year college

### Whose Info Goes on the FAFSA?

### YES

- Married parents living together
- Biological parents living together
- Divorced or separated parents
  - The parent the student lived with the most over the past 12 months. If equal, then the parent who provided more than 50% of student's support
- Stepparents If part of student's household
- Adoptive parents

### NO

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Anyone else the student lives with

### **2021-2022 FAFSA Prep**

### Information Needed for FAFSA



Social Security Numbers



Federal Tax Returns and W-2's (2019)



2019 Untaxed Income



Checking and Savings Account Statement Balances as of FAFSA Filing Date



**Investment Records** 



**Email Addresses** 



Student & Parent Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

## Who Is Independent?

- Born before January 1, 1998
- Married
- Veteran (includes active duty personnel)
- Working on graduate level degree
- Emancipated minor in legal guardianship
- Orphan, in foster care or ward of the court at anytime when student was age 13 or older
- Have legal dependents other than spouse
- Student deemed homeless by proper authority
- (PA State Grant status can be different)



### **Create Your FSA ID Accounts**

- The student applying for aid and one parent providing information on the FAFSA need to create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.
- Create prior to completing the FAFSA.
- Legal signature for student and parent.
- Provides access to FAFSA and Federal Student Aid online systems.

After verifying, the mobile phone number can be used as the username to login.

Username

**Password** 

**Email Address** 

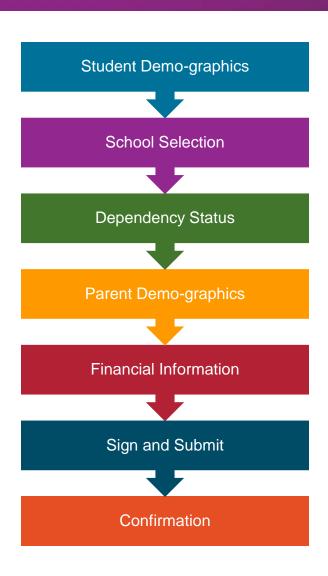
Mobile Phone

**Security Questions** 

Social Security
Number

## FAFSA Steps

- 1. Login student or parent
- 2. Disclaimer select accept
- 3. Application Year
- 4. Save Key
- 5. Introduction



## FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – FAFSA.gov

- The FAFSA is the primary federal form for financial assistance to attend postsecondary school.
- Must file a FAFSA each year a student attends school to be eligible.
- File online Fast, Secure, SKIP LOGIC and Built-in Edits.



# On the FAFSA, Students: Answer "YES"

- Interested in Work Study?
  - » Gaining an on campus WS job is not guaranteed
  - » WS income is not reported on the FAFSA
  - » Understand the process on your campus of being hired
- Interested in Federal Student Loans?
  - » No obligation, all aid can be rejected by student

### FAFSA – School Selection

- List more than one!
- Only schools that are listed will be able to see your FAFSA information.
- Students can list up to 10 colleges at a time – ← Schools can be added or deleted at any time
- Once the final school choice is made, students should update their PA State Grant record.

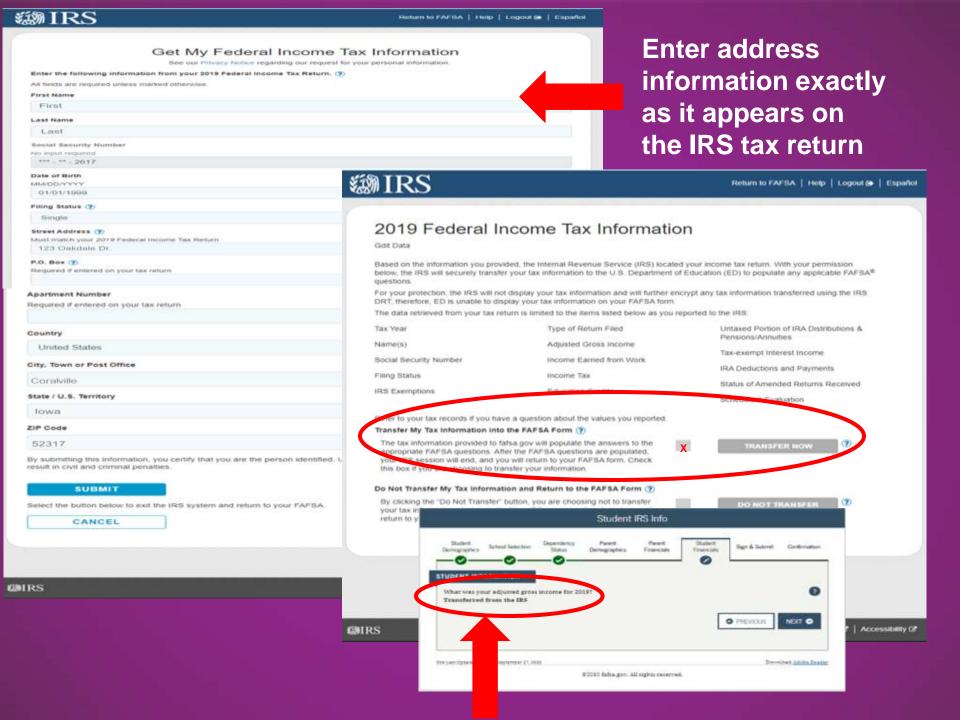


### **IRS Data Retrieval Tool**

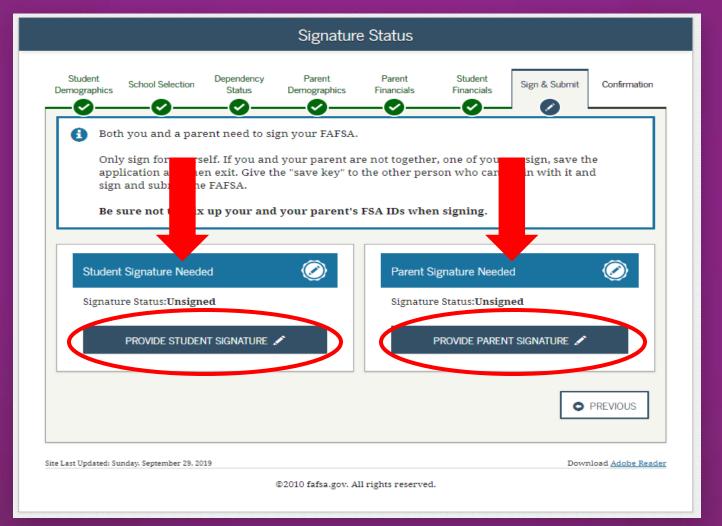
### After taxes are filed:

- Is a component of the FAFSA
- Automatically pulls in 2019 IRS
   Tax info for parents and students
   and places data into the FAFSA
- There are some exceptions not everyone can use the IRS DRT
- Not everyone is required to file taxes, filing is not required to complete the FAFSA
- If estimated income is used to complete the FAFSA, go back later and use IRS Data Retrieval Tool

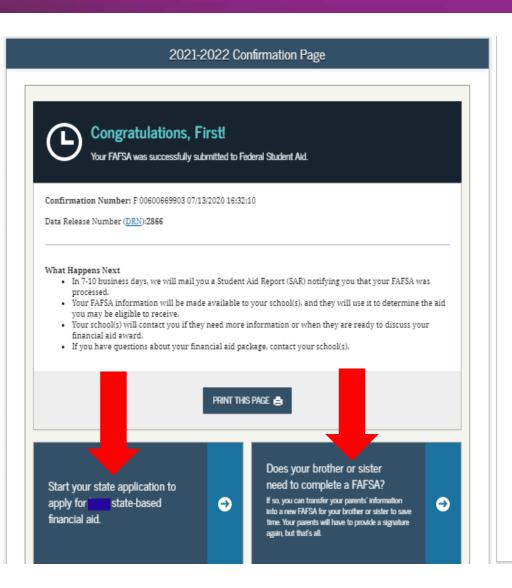


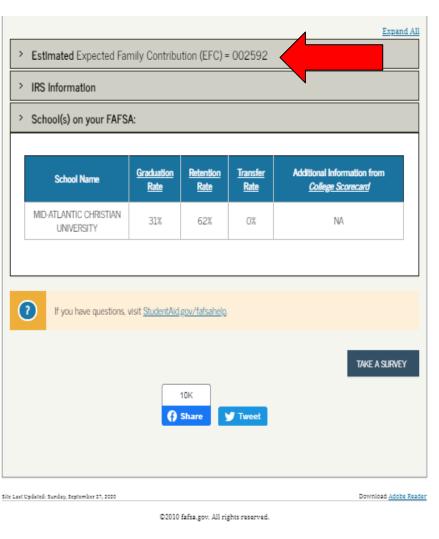


## Sign & Submit



# Confirmation Page & Link to the PA State Grant Form & Sibling Application



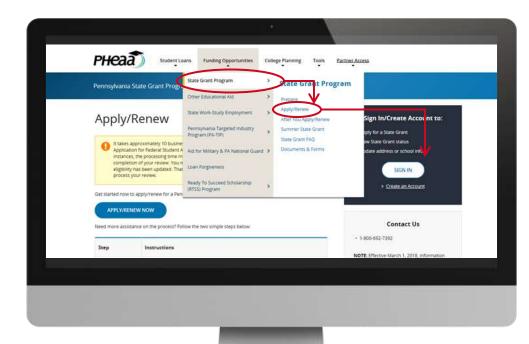


## **Online State Grant Application**

- Link off the FAFSA Application Confirmation Page
  - » Missed the link or it wasn't available?
    - Link in an email sent to student/parent from PHEAA,

#### OR

- Go to <u>PHEAA.org</u>; State Grant Program; and complete the form.
- Additional information needed to determine PA State Grant eligibility:
  - » Enrollment status (full-time/part-time)
  - » Value of PA 529 College Savings Program
  - » Program of study for students in vocational programs
  - » Employment status



## **Special Circumstances**

### If things change....

- Divorced or separated parents
- Recent death or disability
- Reduced income

- Unemployment
- Medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance

- ✓ Only a school can change a FAFSA related to circumstances
- ✓ Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education
- ✓ Contact PHEAA for PA State Grant re-consideration

### Forms Are Filed – Now What?



## What Happens Next?

### The process.....

Department of Education's Central Processing System uses the FAFSA calculations to create your NEED ANALYSIS

EFC is calculated – number used to determine need

SAR/ISIR – reports information to you and your school choices

Schools and State receive your results

Grant eligibility is calculated

You Apply/Applied to your school choices

Once Accepted – schools produce Award Offer (Aid Notification) based on Need and any Internal Aid (Cost – EFC = Need)

You compare Award Offers

Determine true costs of school and make affordable choices



# Need Analysis is Calculated by Your School

Schools use SAR calculations to determine a student's financial need based on –



### **Two Components:**

- The student's Cost Of Attendance at the chosen institution.
- The student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

EFC figure includes parent(s) & student's contribution.

# What School Costs Are Considered?

### School costs include:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous living expenses
- Child care, if necessary



You can receive financial aid up to the total of the school regardless of your EFC!

### **Net Price Calculators**

••••

- Enables current and prospective students, families and consumers to determine an estimate of an individual net price at a particular institution.
- ESTIMATED data must be provided by each institution:
  - » Total price of attendance
  - » Tuition, Fees, Room and Board
  - » Expenses (i.e., personal, transportation)
  - » Estimated total merit and need-based grant aid
  - » Estimated net price (attendance minus grant aid)

### May not include scholarships

### **How is EFC Calculated?**

In theory, the EFC is a number calculated to measure and compare the general financial strength of all families applying for aid - it is **NOT** the amount you are expected to pay. The EFC remains the same no matter which school the student attends.

#### Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined based on:

- ✓ Parent income and assets
- ✓ Student income and assets
- √ Family size
- ✓ Number in college
- ✓ Age of the older parent



This is NOT necessarily the amount you will pay each year!

### Parent Income & Assets

- Allowances are made for federal, state, local and social security taxes; working parent households and a standard living allowance based on family size
- An ASSET PROTECTION ALLOWANCE is applied against a Parent's assets, based on the information provided on the FAFSA application



NOT AN ASSET: Home, Personal Property, Qualified Retirement Funds; Value of Life Insurance

Report **NET ASSETS** (Current Value – Current Debt = Net Asset)

529 college savings accounts are reported as Parent Investments.

### Student Income & Assets



- •Income protection allowance of \$6,970 is applied and the remaining amount is assessed at 50%
- Dependent students must report assets in their name
- Student assets are assessed at 20%

## Calculating Financial NEED



1. Using FAFSA calculations:

School Cost	\$32,000
-EFC	-\$ 5,000
FINANCIAL NEED	\$27,000

- 2. FAO "Packages" students based on Financial Need and available funding (varies by school)
- 3. Financial Award Offer is sent to the Student

**NOTE:** EFC Stays the same, Costs Vary

### Financial Aid Notification

- Official notification from school about financial aid, terms and conditions
- Lists the type and amount of each offer to be received
- Describes what must be done to accept or reject any aid offered
- Discloses students rights, responsibilities and academic requirements
- There is no required standard format for Aid Notices

### Reviewing the Financial Aid Notification

After reviewing their notifications, students should be sure they know and understand the following:

How much of the financial aid is free money?

Which offers are based on need, and which are based on merit?

Are there any conditions on the free money? GPA requirement?

Will offers increase as tuition increases?

Will offers change from year to year?

Will loans be needed?



### **Federal Programs**

- Pell Grant max award \$6,345\* (for 2020-21)
- Max EFC is 5711
- Campus-based aid (amounts determined by Financial Aid Office at each potential school)
  - » FSEOG.....up to \$4,000
  - » Federal Work-Study...FAO determines

For most programs, student must be enrolled at least half-time.

<sup>\*</sup> Goes to most financially needy students

### Other Federal Programs

(Based on specific situations & criteria)

- Teach Grant
- Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant
- Dependents Education Assistance (DEA) Grant -Veteran Affairs
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program (students with disabilities)
- Americorps www.americorps.gov

StudentAid.gov

### Pennsylvania State Grant\*) (2020-21)

- \$7
- In-state (PA) Full-time: up to \$4,525
- In-state (PA) Part-time: 1/2 of the FT award
- Out-of-state Up to \$578 in DC, DE, MA, OH, VT, WV. \$770 for veterans.
- Amount determined in part by the cost of the school.
- \* Must be at least half-time to be eligible

### **Other State Programs**

- State Work-Study
- Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant
- Educational Assistance Grant (EAP) National Guard
- PA Military Family Education Program (MFEP)
- Chafee Education and Training Grant co-administered with the PA Department of Human Services
- Foster Ed Tuition Waiver
- Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program (PEGP)
- Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
- Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA –TIP)
- Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS)

For details, see the PA Student Aid Guide, or visit **PHEAA.org** 







### Federal Direct Loan Program

- Available to ALL students REGARDLESS of need
- Additional unsubsidized funds available for Independent & Parent PLUS denials
  - » 2.75% interest rate (AY 20-21), 1.057% fee
  - » Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- No payments required while attending school & six-month grace period
- Flexible Repayment options
- 150% RULE applies New borrowers as of 7/1/13

### Based on FAFSA, students have a combination of:

- Subsidized: Federal government pays interest in school and grace status
- Unsubsidized: interest accrues in school and grace

Studentaid.gov & school's website!

# Federal Direct Stafford Loan Borrowing Limits

Undergraduate Students			Graduate Students
Annual Limits	Dependent Students	Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan	Graduate or Professional Studies
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	\$5,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$9,500</b> Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	\$6,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$10,500 Total  No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$20,500 each academic year Graduate / Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year and beyond	<b>\$7,500</b> Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	\$12,500 Total  No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	
Aggregate Limits	\$31,000 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$57,500 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$138,500 Total No more than \$65,000 may be subsidized

### Federal Direct PLUS Loan

- For parents of dependent undergraduate or graduate level students
- In parent's name for student costs
- Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
  - » 5.30 % variable/fixed interest rate; 4.228% fees (AY 20-21)
- Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
- MUST apply each year
- No Debt-to-Income test, only lenient credit check
- Can have an endorser (co-signer)
- Principal can be deferred while student is in school; Interest will continue to accrue
- IF denied student is eligible for an additional \$4,000 unsubsidized loan
- Must file a FAFSA





ONLY consider private or alternative loans after looking into all other sources of financial aid

### **Private/Alternative Loans**

- From private lenders or financial institutions
  - In student's name/co-signers usually required
  - Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
  - Based on credit scores and debt-to-income
  - Fees, interest rates, loan amounts, and repayment provisions vary by lender
  - Repayment may be deferred until education completed
  - Students must sign a "Self Certification Form"

### READ THE FINE PRINT



# PA Forward Education Loans Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program



- Low cost affordable student loan products, originated and serviced through PHEAA, available to help Pennsylvania Students & families.
- Variety of repayment options.

#### Who can use PA Forward?

- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Parents, Stepparents, Guardians
- Refinancing Option
- PA Residents attending any Title IV eligible school
- OH, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA residents attending a PA school

Apply and find more details on PA Forward at <a href="PHEAA.org/PAForward">PHEAA.org/PAForward</a>
It's worth a look to find what works for you!



# Scholarships



### Types of Scholarships

- Postsecondary scholarships
  - » Merit, Major, Characteristics
  - » Admissions & Financial Aid
- Local and regional scholarships
  - » School Counselor
  - » Local Foundations
- National scholarships
  - » Websites



### Scholarship Search Don't miss out on FREE money!

- Start early and KEEP LOOKING
- Don't forget to continue studies!
- GOOGLE your interests
- Don't PAY for information
- Criteria varies by school
  - If you're asked to pay, it's not free money (SCAM)
- Don't disqualify yourself until IT disqualifies YOU
- Don't fear ESSAYS
- Provide what is asked
- Small scholarships ADD UP
- Activities, Athletics, Family, Hobbies, Participation, Attributes – DO YOUR RESEARCH
- Don't miss DEADLINES
- Write it down!



- ✓ FastWeb.com
- √ EducationPlanner.org
- ✓ Scholarshipamerica.org/
- √ Chegg.com
- √ FinAid.org
- ✓ Peerlift.org
- √ Scholarships.com
- √ Scholarship-Page.com
- ✓ DoSomething.org/Scholarships
- ✓ Colleges.Niche.com
- √ StudentScholarships.org
- ✓ BigFuture.Collegeboard.org
- ✓ CollegeAnswer.com
- ✓ CollegeNet.com
- √ Cappex.com/scholarships
- ✓ Unigo.com
- ✓ Careeronestop.org/toolkit/traini ng/find-scholarships.aspx
- ✓ MORE....

# Options for Funding the Gap

### Meeting the Gap

- Research School Options
  - Additional institutional money

  - Tuition payment plan Income Share Agreement (ISA)
  - Institutional Loan
- Consider options for cutting costs
  - Commute or alternative housing options
  - Resident assistant (RA) option
  - Alternative meal plan options
  - Take summer classes
  - Buy used books, rent, research online for cheaper costs, check with the library
- Research private outside scholarships
- Employer reimbursement programs
- Alternative schools (affordable school, community college, 2 + 2 strategy (2 years at a community college then transfer credits to a 4 year school) Check out Patrac.org
- Federal parent PLUS loan
- Home equity loan/Line of credit
- Private/Alternative loans
- 529 college saving plan
- AmeriCorps/Peace Corps
- Military (JROTC, ROTC, National Guard)
- **Current Wages**







### What Can You Do Now?



Apply for FSA ID Account

Explore Scholarships

Visit College Websites

**Use Net Price Calculators** 

Talk about what is affordable

### PHEAA FAN & FAFSA Toolkits

### Inside FAN & FAFSA Toolkits



Order at: https://www.pheaa.org/materials-ordering/selectMaterial.shtml

### **Use Your Resources**

- PHEAA.org
- EducationPlanner.org & MySmartBorrowing.org
- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- MyFedLoan.org
- PHEAA toll free: 800-692-7392
- Federal Student Aid Info Center: 800-433-3243
- StudentAid.gov general financial aid info



### **Contact Information**

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