

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and it is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that allows certain young individuals without legal status in the U.S. a reprieve from deportation while also allowing them to work lawfully in the United States. This is different from the Federal DREAM Act which would allow qualified persons a path to lawful permanent residency.

Scholarships for Undocumented students/Dreamers (HS Seniors)

Que Llueva Café- sponsored by Chicano Organizing & Research in Education

Deadline: late February each year

Amount: \$500

http://www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe_scholarship_program

Esperanza Fund

Deadline: April 1 every year

Amount: \$5,000 (for 2 years of study at the community college)

www.esperanzafund.org

Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation

Deadline: early March every year

Amount: \$4,000 (for 2 years)

<http://www.mkingculturalfoundation.org/scholarships/index.html>

The Dream.US

Deadline: late October every year

Amount: up to \$12,000 toward Associates degree (must attend a partner school, such as NOVA)

<http://www.thedream.us/scholarships>

Los Hermanos de Stanford

Deadline: May 5 of every year

Amount: \$1,000 (may be attending either 2- or 4-year college)

<http://hermanos.weebly.com/scholarships.html>

Herbert Lehman Education Fund Scholarship

Deadline: March 31 of every year

Amount: \$2,000 (renewable)

<http://www.naacpldf.org/herbert-lehman-education-fund-scholarship>

Golden Door Scholars (priority given to students from NC, SC, TN, & GA but anyone can apply)

Deadline: Fall of every year

Amount: unknown

<http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/> <http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/faqs.html>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

They offer various scholarship programs that are now available for students with DACA

Deadlines: vary

Amount: vary

<https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Scholarship (CHCI)

Deadline: April 16th

Amount: \$1,000 for associate's degree; \$2,500 for undergraduate degree

http://chci.org/newsroom/scholar_intern_program

Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund

Specifically for students that are of Asian, pan-Asian descent

Deadline: January 15th

Amount: \$500- they will give out 5 scholarships

<http://aaldef.org/raise.html>

Additional resources:

DACA Toolkit for Educators- Educators for Fair Consideration

http://e4fc.org/images/E4FC_DACAEducatorToolkit.pdf

USCIS DACA Toolkit: Resources for Community Partners

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Humanitarian/Deferred%20Action%20for%20Childhood%20Arrivals/DACA_Toolkit_CP_072914.pdf

Educators for Fair Consideration Scholarship List

http://e4fc.org/images/E4FC_Scholarships.pdf

Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)

www.maldef.org

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard Student Resource Guide for Paying for College

http://roybal-allard.house.gov/uploadedfiles/scholarships_student_resource_guide_2013.pdf

Harvard University Act on a Dream Scholarship list:

<http://www.actonadream.org/resources/scholarships/>

Documenting the Pathway to College (A Handbook for Undocumented HS Students)

<http://www.actonadream.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Documenting-the-Pathway-to-College-10-30.pdf>

Scholarships A-Z

www.scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships/

Scholarship Tips for Undocumented Students

Paying for college is tough, but for undocumented students it can seem nearly impossible. The US Government does not allow undocumented students to receive any federal financial aid. Furthermore, most states also do not allow undocumented students access to taxpayer-funded aid (however, some states do!). Without the help of federal or state financial aid, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) undocumented students must heavily rely on scholarships and extreme patience. Here are some tips if you're undocumented and trying to finance your education.

Figure out exactly how much your degree will cost you

Finding out just how much students need to pay for their higher education is difficult to estimate. Some states permit undocumented students to pay the lower in-state tuition state residents pay for their state's public institutions. On the other hand, other institutions may treat undocumented students like a foreign student and charge them out-of-state tuition regardless if they have resided in the state. This all varies from state to state. You can review which states currently offer in-state tuition in the link above.

Be especially careful when reviewing residency and eligibility information

Regardless if they're paying in-state or out-state tuition, any tuition will be costly without the help of scholarships. Any scholarships requiring students to be U.S. Citizens or to provide a Social Security number disqualify undocumented students for applying. When searching for scholarships look carefully over the eligibility requirements and look for what if any residency requirements are listed.

Don't see any residency requirements listed? Students may assume that just because they don't explicitly state it, that it's OK for you to go ahead to apply. Don't make any assumptions. If they don't list citizenship requirements or specifically indicate that undocumented or Non US Citizens can apply, then students should contact the scholarship to clarify. If you meet all the requirements except for the residency requirements listed, then you should still contact the scholarship provider to see if they can make an exception. It never hurts to ask!

Do not be afraid to tell your story

For scholarships that are specifically for undocumented students, students should use their personal story of being undocumented to their advantage. In your personal statement be sure to discuss your undocumented status, but don't make it the centerpiece of your story. Undocumented students are often only judged for their undocumented status, that's why it's important to highlight all of the accomplishments made despite the setbacks that being undocumented brings.

Find scholarships on College Greenlight

We can help you find scholarships as well. Not only can you fill out a free profile on College Greenlight to access a list of scholarships matched to you based on your academics, citizenship status, and accomplishments, but we regularly publish lists of scholarships available to students regardless of citizenship status. You can find our most recent list of these scholarships at:

<http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/2014-2015-scholarships-for-undocumented-students>