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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Now is the time for prospective students—including DREAMers—to apply for financial aid

Olympia—Filing an application for financial aid is an important step in the college application process. In order to be considered for grants, loans, work-study, and certain scholarships in 2015-16, prospective and continuing college students will need to file a financial aid application.

Many colleges have early priority consideration deadlines, so it's best to submit financial aid applications early. For a list of financial aid deadlines at Washington colleges, click [here](#).

Most students can file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) to be considered for both federal and state financial aid. DREAMers who aren't able to file a FAFSA can still apply for state financial aid by completing the Washington Application for State Financial Aid ([WASFA](#)).

The WASFA is an online application available on [ReadySetGrad.org/WASFA](#). The WASFA exists for DREAMers who meet [residency requirements](#), want to be considered for State Need Grant, and who are unable to file a FAFSA due to immigration status. Eligible students should submit it as soon as possible.

The [State Need Grant](#) is a need-based financial aid program that helps over 70,000 low-income undergraduate students pay for college. Students who meet program requirements can use the grant at eligible institutions in Washington. State Need Grant awards are not guaranteed, and all students are encouraged to file either the FAFSA or the WASFA as soon as possible. Students should also visit [theWashBoard.org](#), Washington's one-stop scholarship search tool.

There are opportunities for people to get help applying for financial aid at College Goal Washington events, which are hosted by high schools and colleges across the state. Experts are available at these events to help people file the FAFSA or WASFA. A list of College Goal Washington events, which are free and open to the public, can be found [here](#).

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers the state's financial aid and access programs, including College Goal Washington. [Readysetgrad.org](#), sponsored by the Council, contains valuable information about college readiness and financial aid.

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council: Established as a new cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington’s four major educational sectors. Find us online at www.wsac.wa.gov, on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WSACouncil.