



Chicago C.A.R.E.

Bringing financial literacy to Chicago and its suburbs

Grants and Scholarships Available to Undocumented Students

The problem: There are no federally funded or guaranteed options for undocumented students to pay for college. These students are not eligible to file a FAFSA, get a Pell grant or borrow money in the federally-backed loan programs available to United States citizens and eligible non-citizens (e.g., legal permanent residents).

The solution: Here in Illinois (and especially in Chicago), there are avenues for undocumented students to get grants and scholarships that will help them pay for college. This is a list of those resources.

- The website for CAUSE (Coalition of Advocates for Undocumented Students' Education) should be on every undocumented student's radar. It is an excellent resource. CAUSE is an organization that "exists to support, empower, grow, educate, and bring together clubs representing undocumented immigrants across CPS (Chicago Public Schools) high schools." Its website "houses a resource guide that provides up-to-date information for undocumented students such as access to scholarships, legal aid, and mental health services."
www.causechicago.org
- Illinois MAP grants: The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) provides a way for these qualified students to apply for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the state's largest need-based grant program for low-income college

students. The student must be a resident of Illinois and the funds must be used at an in-state college. A link to the application is on this website:

<https://www.isac.org/Alternative-Application>

- CPS Dream Fund Scholarship. This is a \$1,000 - \$2,500 scholarship available only to undocumented CPS students with a minimum GPA of 2.0 who plan to attend a 2 or 4 year college. It is recommended that applicants fill out the Alternative Application. Eligible candidates will also be interviewed.
<https://cps.academicworks.com/opportunities/8055>
- Star Scholars. CPS students and students attending Big Shoulders Fund-supported schools (parochial schools), including undocumented students, are eligible to attend City Colleges with tuition and books completely paid for by the Star Scholarship. The student must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and complete college within 3 years. Apply here: <https://pages.ccc.edu/apply/star/>
- A \$1,000 scholarship is offered by the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education to Hispanic students of any immigration status "who exhibit outstanding commitment to learning, community service, and leadership."
<https://ilache.org/Scholarship/>
- A \$1,000 scholarship is offered by the Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling to students of any immigration status who show financial need, commitment to learning and leadership skills or a commitment to community service. <https://www.iacac.org/scholarship/>
- The U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute offers a \$1,000 scholarship to students of any immigration status who meet the following criteria: a need for financial support; active participation in public and/or community service activities; at least one parent of Hispanic ancestry; and a minimum 2.5 GPA. This scholarship requires an essay, transcript and resume. <https://www.ushli.org/rumba/>
- The Chicago Latino Caucus Foundation gives out scholarships to Chicago residents of any immigration status with at least one Hispanic parent and a minimum 3.0 GPA. This scholarship requires a transcript, resume, personal statement and college acceptance letter.
<https://www.ccclatinocaucus.org/about-scholarships>

- The Miller-Perez Family Scholarship Fund offers a \$2,000 scholarship to Cook County residents who: have financial need; are of Latino and/or immigrant descent; and demonstrate commitment to community service.
<https://latinospro.org/miller-perez-family-scholarship-fund/>
- One national scholarship available is The Dream National Scholarship. It is available to undocumented immigrant students with or without DACA who came to the U.S. before the age of 16 and before Nov. 1, 2018. The award covers tuition and fees at one of the partner colleges up to a maximum of \$33,000 for a bachelor's degree. Some students may receive an additional stipend for books, supplies, and transportation for up to \$6,000. Details are available at <https://www.thedream.us/scholarships/>
- Many other scholarships for which undocumented students are eligible are listed on the website www.causechicago.org
- Additional resources with links are also listed on this document compiled by **Susana Mares**, CPS Undocumented Program Manager:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAE3Oijc05U/j2GHq1O4IB4-0nqqYKS3Ew/view?utm_content=DAE3Oijc05U&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

Finally, in addition to the resources mentioned above, we highly recommend that undocumented students interested in pursuing post-secondary education set up a meeting with their guidance counselors for further assistance in exploring all of their options.