

## PROGRAM GOALS & SERVICES

1. **GOAL ONE – STUDENT FOCUSED**: Support and motivate high school students to attend a higher education institution. Find educational sources and provide individual educational advising.
2. **GOAL TWO – FAMILY FOCUSED**: Educate families on higher education options available and help to find educational sources to their child.
3. **GOAL THREE – SCHOOL FOCUSED**: Visible active presence in each Excel high school. Providing college information workshops through activities and events which gets students thinking and talking about higher education.

### ***We provide help with:***

- Applying for college
- Applying for Financial Aid
- Searching and applying for scholarships
- Completing college assessment tests
- Understanding the college-going culture
- Assistance for DACA/Undocumented student wanting to attend college (*Hablamos Español*)

***The MSU Denver Excel Program also offers a scholarship to students who apply and get accepted into MSU Denver (Ask an Excel Team Member for more information).***



## COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND

The **College Opportunity Fund** program provides a stipend for new and continuing in-state students going to college in Colorado. To receive the stipend, a student must apply for and authorize the use of the stipend at their respective institution. The stipend replaces traditional direct legislative appropriations to the state's colleges and universities. Without the stipend, a student is responsible.

### HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

- 1 credit = \$94 (Public College)  
1 credit = \$47 (Private College)
  - *MSU Denver is a public college*
- 12 credits per semester = \$1,128
  - \$\$\$ that doesn't come out of your pocket!

### AM I ELIGIBLE?

- To be eligible for COF you must be **COLORADO RESIDENT**
- You must have a valid **Social Security Number\***
  - *Undocumented student do not have to provide a Social Security Number but must fill out an affidavit.*

### WHERE CAN I SIGN UP?

- [HTTPS://COF.COLLEGE-ASSIST.ORG](https://cof.college-assist.org)

## RESIDENCY

Students must be classified as either in-state or out-of-state for tuition purpose. This determines how much you will pay. In-state students pay lower tuition than out-of-state students. Those classified as Resident (for tuition purposes) will also be eligible for extra funding toward their tuition bill such as COF.

- Students under the age of 23 the day before classes begin must use their parent/legal guardian's information (except where noted).
- To be classified as a Resident, the student or parent (if student is under 23) must have any three of the following for at least one consecutive year before the start of classes:
  - Vehicle registered in Colorado
  - Colorado ID or Colorado Driver's License
  - Filed Colorado taxes last year
  - Will file Colorado taxes this year
  - Registered to vote in Colorado
  - Employed in Colorado.
- **ASSET** – Undocumented students and DACA students can still qualify for in-state tuition through ASSET. In order to be eligible for ASSET, a student must have attended a Colorado high school for **THREE YEARS** as well as have **GRADUATED** from a Colorado high school.

## FAFSA VS CASFA

### **FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid**

Used by the federal government to determine a family's eligibility for grants, work-study, and loans to pay for college.

### **Who is eligible to apply for FAFSA?**

You must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen (*including a U.S. national or permanent resident*) and have a valid Social Security number or be an asylee or refugee with an I-94 from USCIS. Have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Be enrolled or accepted as a student in an **eligible** degree or certificate program.

### **How to apply?**

First complete your FSA ID. Then, go to the main website: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

### **Types of Financial Aid**

1. **Pell Grants** are usually based on financial need and do not have to be repaid. It's **FREE** money!
2. **Student Loans** are an investment in your future. But remember, they must be repaid with interest. It's **BORROWED** money!
3. **Work Study** is money you earn while working a student job in college. It's **EARNED** money – similar to a part-time job (but with some differences).
4. **Scholarships** are also **FREE** money that's not always based off financial need. Can be based off merit, demographic, student interest and activities, etc.

### **CASFA: Colorado Application for State Financial Aid**

The purpose of the CASFA is to determine need for financial aid awarding purposes to students historically left out of receiving state and federal financial aid. CASFA positively supports families and is a logical next step in efforts to erase equity gaps and put college in reach for the families who benefit most from a postsecondary education.

### **Who is eligible to apply for DAIA?**

*UNDOCUMENTED, ASSET, DACA and INTERNATIONAL* students may receive state aid at MSU Denver. In order to review your eligibility for state aid at MSU Denver, you must complete CASFA application. **You should not complete the FAFSA.**

### **How to apply?**

You can download a copy from Financial Aid according to your academic year (<https://cdhesnapprod.regenteducation.net/>).



# EXCEL PROGRAM

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS

Some scholarship examples include ...

<u>Name</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<b>Excel Program Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.msudenver.edu/excel/aboutourprogram/excelscholarship/">https://www.msudenver.edu/excel/aboutourprogram/excelscholarship/</a></li> </ul>	2.75	\$8,000 total in four years	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
<b>MSU Denver Foundation Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.msudenver.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/">https://www.msudenver.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/</a></li> </ul>	2.8	Varies	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Priority deadline: Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
<b>Daniels Fund</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.danielsfund.org/scholarships/daniels-scholarship-program/overview">https://www.danielsfund.org/scholarships/daniels-scholarship-program/overview</a></li> </ul>	3.3	Varies	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020	Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
<b>Hispanic Scholarship Fund</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.hsf.net/">https://www.hsf.net/</a></li> </ul>	3.0	\$500-\$5,000	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>RaiseMe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.raise.me/home">https://www.raise.me/home</a></li> </ul>	2.8	Varies	Continuously open	Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021

### MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT -

- <https://www.msudenver.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/External-Scholarship-List-Web-Version.pdf>
- <http://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/>
- <http://www.denverfoundation.org/Scholarships/For-High-School-Students>



# EXCEL PROGRAM

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDOCUMENTED/DACA STUDENTS

Some scholarship examples include ...

<u>Name</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<b>Excel Program Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.msudenver.edu/excel/aboutourprogram/excelscholarship/">https://www.msudenver.edu/excel/aboutourprogram/excelscholarship/</a></li> </ul>	2.75	\$8,000 total in four years	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
<b>MSU Denver Foundation Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.msudenver.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/">https://www.msudenver.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/</a></li> </ul>	2.8	Varies	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Priority deadline: Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
<b>Dream.US Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://thedream.us/">https://thedream.us/</a></li> </ul>	2.5	\$10,000+	TBA	TBA
<b>LAEF Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.laef.org/Scholarship">http://www.laef.org/Scholarship</a></li> </ul>	3.0	\$500-\$3000	TBA	Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
<b>Colorado Educational Services and Development Association (CESDA) Scholarship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.cesda.org/scholarships">https://www.cesda.org/scholarships</a></li> </ul>	2.8	\$1,000	TBA	TBA
<b>RaiseMe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.raise.me/home">https://www.raise.me/home</a></li> </ul>	2.8	Varies	Continuously open	March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021

### MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT -

- <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/undergraduate-scholarships/>
- <https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/>

