



**BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN**  
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**2026**

# FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

*Empowering Students. Expanding Opportunities*  
*A Resource for Nassau County Students & Families*



**NASSAU COUNTY**  
OFFICE OF  
HISPANIC AFFAIRS

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   @HispanicAffairsCASA

*\*Updated March 2026*

*\*Information Subject to Change*



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# NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The **Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs** is proud to present this **Financial Aid & Scholarship Guide**, designed to support students in accessing higher education opportunities.

This guide includes a list of scholarships along with direct links for each opportunity. While we aim to provide helpful summaries, students and parents are encouraged to visit the provided links for the most accurate and up-to-date information, as it is not possible to include every eligibility requirement, deadline, and application component within this guide.

Paying for college can sometimes feel overwhelming because financial aid comes from different sources. In addition to scholarships, students may qualify for **financial assistance through federal programs, New York State aid programs, and institutional scholarships offered by colleges and organizations**. This guide also includes a simple overview to help students and families better understand how these different forms of financial aid work together to make higher education more accessible. This guide is not exhaustive and deadlines may change; always verify details on the official scholarship website before applying.



## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- Review each scholarship description and eligibility criteria carefully.
- Visit the direct links for complete details and applications.
- Select opportunities that best align with your academic goals, background, and achievements.
- Apply early, stay organized, and submit complete applications.



## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The Office of Hispanic Affairs remains committed to empowering our community through education, opportunity, and access to vital resources.

“ We wish you **great success** in your academic journey. ”

**Herberth Flores**  
Executive Director  
Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs

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# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

*Preparing in advance will make the scholarship application process smoother and less stressful.*

## ✓ Personal & Academic Documents

- High school transcript (official and/or unofficial copy)
- College transcript (if applicable)
- GPA information
- SAT/ACT scores (if required)
- Proof of enrollment or college acceptance letter
- Student ID number
- Social Security Number (if required)
- Résumé (include academic achievements, leadership roles, internships, volunteer work, and employment)

## ✓ Letters of Recommendation

- Request letters at least 3–4 weeks in advance
- Provide recommenders with your résumé and scholarship details
- Confirm submission deadlines
- Send a thank-you note after submission

## ✓ Essays & Personal Statements

- Draft general personal statement (can be tailored for multiple scholarships)
- Prepare short-response versions (250–500 words)
- Have a teacher, mentor, or counselor review your essays
- Proofread for grammar and clarity

## ✓ Financial Information

- Parent/guardian tax returns (if dependent)
- Student tax return (if applicable)
- Household income information
- FAFSA Submission Summary (if required)

## ✓ Application Logistics

- Create a spreadsheet to track deadlines
- Confirm submission format (online, email, mail)
- Save confirmation emails
- Submit applications at least 2–3 days before deadline
- Keep copies of everything submitted



## PRO TIP

**Start requesting recommendation letters at least one month** before deadlines. Always save confirmation emails and keep a digital folder of all submitted documents



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# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

## *A Simple Guide for Students and Families*

Paying for college can feel confusing because financial aid comes from different places.

The easiest way to understand it is to think of it as layers of support.

Financial aid generally comes from **three** main sources

**1**



**Federal Government  
FAFSA**

**2**



**New York State**

**3**



**Colleges &  
Scholarships**

## **1** Layer 1: Federal Aid (FAFSA)

The first step for every student is completing the FAFSA.

FAFSA stands for: **Free Application for Federal Student Aid.**

This application is run by the **U.S. Department of Education.**

When a student completes the FAFSA, they may qualify for federal financial aid such as:

- **Pell Grant** – free money that does not need to be repaid
- **Federal Student Loans** – loans with lower interest rates for students
- **Federal Work-Study** – part-time jobs offered through colleges
- **Campus-based financial aid** provided by colleges

Many state programs and college scholarships use FAFSA to determine eligibility.

This is why FAFSA is always the first step in the financial aid process.

**Students can complete the FAFSA online at: [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)**



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# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

1



Federal Government  
FAFSA

2



New York State

3



Colleges &  
Scholarships

## ② Layer 2: New York State Aid

After completing the FAFSA, **New York State may provide additional financial aid** to help cover tuition.

New York's financial aid programs are managed by the:  
**New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).**

Two programs available to New York students are:

### Tuition Assistance Program

TAP is NYS's main tuition grant. It provides **free money that does not need to be repaid** to eligible NYS residents attending approved colleges in New York.

To qualify for TAP, students generally must:

- Be a New York State resident
- Attend an approved college in New York
- Be enrolled full-time (usually 12 credits or more)
- Meet income eligibility requirements

### Excelsior Scholarship

Excelsior Scholarship helps make tuition at SUNY & CUNY colleges **tuition-free for eligible families**. Excelsior only covers **tuition**. It does not cover housing, books, or other fees. Excelsior is considered a **"last-dollar scholarship."** This means it covers remaining tuition after other financial aid is applied.

Students may qualify if:

- Their household income is \$125,000 or less
- They attend a SUNY or CUNY school
- They attend full-time and complete 30 credits per year

Students can learn more about these programs at [HESC.NY.GOV](https://www.hesc.ny.gov)



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# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

1



Federal Government  
FAFSA

2



New York State

3



Colleges &  
Scholarships

## 3 Layer 3: Scholarships

After completing the FAFSA and applying for New York State aid, the next important step is to apply for scholarships.

Scholarships are financial awards that do not need to be repaid. They are offered by colleges, nonprofit organizations, companies, foundations, and community groups.

Unlike federal or state aid, scholarships are often based on a variety of factors, including:

- Academic achievement
- Community service
- Leadership and extracurricular involvement
- Career interests or field of study
- Cultural or community background
- Financial need

Some scholarships are large awards that cover tuition, while others may provide smaller amounts that help pay for books, transportation, or school supplies. Even smaller scholarships can make a big difference when combined.

Students should apply to as many scholarships as possible, because every award helps reduce the overall cost of college.

### **Important Tip**

Many scholarships require:

- A personal essay
- Letters of recommendation
- Academic transcripts



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# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

Lets say tuition is \$7,000 at a SUNY School

## 1. Complete the FAFSA

Student get a  
Pell Grant for  
**\$3,000**



## 2. Receive NYS TAP

TAP  
**\$4,000**



## 3. Excelsior Scholarship

If more tuition is left to  
cover, Excelsior  
Scholarship may cover  
the remaining cost.



## KEY DIFFERENCES

Federal Aid	New York State Aid
Run by the U.S Government	Run by New York State
Available Nationwide	Only for New York residents
Includes Pell Grants, Loans, and Work-Study	Includes TAP & Excelsior
Must Be Filed first	Requires FAFSA first



## IMPORTANT: THE EXACT STEPS TO FOLLOW

### 1. Create an FSA ID

This allows students and parents to sign the FAFSA electronically.

### 2. Complete the FAFSA

Visit studentaid.gov and submit the application.

### 3. Complete the New York State TAP Application

After FAFSA is submitted, students can apply for TAP through the HESC website.

### 4. Apply for the Excelsior Scholarship (if eligible)

Students attending SUNY or CUNY may apply through HESC.

### 5. Apply for College and Private Scholarships

Scholarships from organizations, foundations, and colleges can further reduce costs.

### 6. Check Email Regularly

Financial aid offices may request additional documents.



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# STEP-BY-STEP FAFSA GUIDE FOR PARENT

**Step 1:** Create an FSA ID for both the student and parent at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

**Step 2:** Gather required documents including Social Security numbers, tax returns, and bank records.

**Step 3:** Visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and start the FAFSA application.

**Step 4:** Enter student demographic information and school choices.

**Step 5:** Enter parent financial information.

**Step 6:** Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when available.

**Step 7:** Review the application carefully for errors.

**Step 8:** Sign and submit the FAFSA electronically.

**Step 9:** Receive the Student Aid Report (SAR).

**Step 10:** Compare financial aid packages from colleges.

## HELPFUL FAFSA TIPS

- Complete the FAFSA as soon as it opens each year.
- List multiple colleges so they can receive the financial aid report.
- Check email regularly for requests for additional documents.
- Ask college financial aid offices for help if needed.
- Reapply every year while the student is in college.

## STAY CONNECTED FOR FAFSA UPDATES & HELP

Follow Federal Student Aid on social media for step-by-step videos, tips, and important updates:





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# FREE FAFSA WORKSHOPS

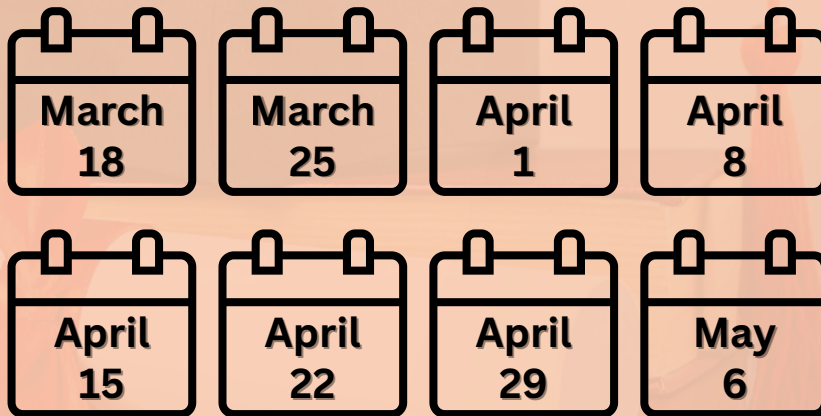
For **Nassau Community College** and **SUNY** students, free FAFSA workshops are available. Register to receive guidance from financial aid advisors on completing your FAFSA.



REGISTER HERE

## Upcoming Workshop Dates

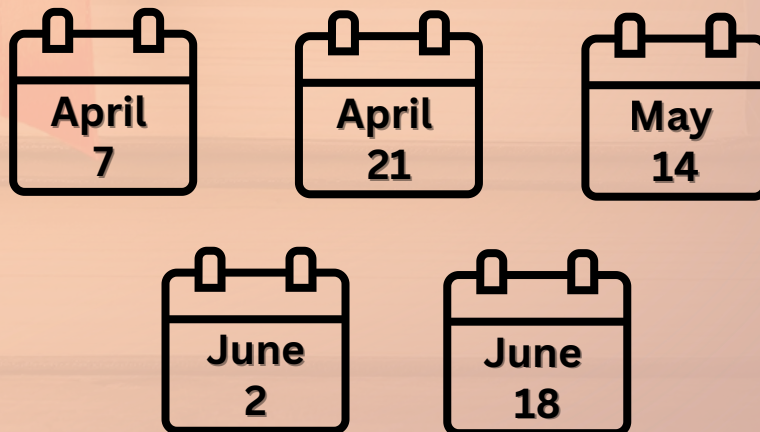
*All workshops begin at 11:30am*



REGISTER HERE

## Upcoming Workshop Dates

*All workshops begin at 6:30pm*





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# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Apply Now — Deadlines Approaching*

 *Visit each website for full eligibility details*

Now that we understand how the financial aid process works, let's explore scholarship opportunities. In the following pages, you will find a list of scholarship opportunities, along with QR codes and direct website links for easier access to more information and applications.

Please note that deadlines, eligibility requirements, award amounts, and application details may change. This guide is provided as a general resource, and students should always visit the official scholarship website to verify the most up-to-date information before applying.



## S.A.F.E.R. TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Apply by: Rolling (Contact Local Department)

For:

- Nassau County residents interested in volunteering
- Individuals 18 years or older (some departments offer junior programs)
- Must be in good physical and mental health
- Must demonstrate good moral character
- Must be willing to serve as a volunteer firefighter or EMS member

Award Includes:

- College tuition assistance at Nassau Community College through the S.A.F.E.R. Grant
- Free firefighter or EMS training
- College credit for training courses
- Additional benefits may include tax credits, retirement benefits, and scholarships

 Learn more at: <https://NassauBravest.com>



**IS THERE A HERO INSIDE YOU?**

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Your local volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance corps needs you, answer the call and visit **NassausBravest.com**

You will be expertly prepared to respond professionally as part of your community's first line of defense in times of crisis.

**NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION**  
FIRE, RESCUE, & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE RECRUITMENT

**THE HERO IS YOU!**

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TODAY!**



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## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (SAE)

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

*\*\*Check with your school for deadline\**

- Awards for top graduating students from NYS high schools
- Up to \$500 and \$1,500 awards depending on performance
- Students are nominated by their schools

 <https://hesc.ny.gov/SAE>



## IAEE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SCHOLARSHIP

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Apply by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Graduating High School Seniors
- Combined Family Income of less than \$120,000
- Declared major in exhibition, event or hospitality management

Award Includes:

- Up to \$2,500 in tuition assistance

 Apply at: <https://www.iaee.com/dei-scholarship/>



## LATINO SOCIAL WORK COALITION SCHOLARSHIP & MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

Apply by March 31st, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Students enrolled in an accredited NYS Social Work Program
- Reside within commuting distance of NYC
- Students with a minimum GPA of 3.0

Award Includes:

- Up to \$500-\$1500 for the 2026-2027 school year
- Monthly sessions with experts in the social work field

 Apply at:

<https://www.latinosocialworkcoalition.org/scholarshipfoundation>





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## THE ALBERT W. DENT & FOSTER G. MCGAW GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

Apply by March 31st, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Students enrolled full-time in a healthcare management graduate program- MHA, MPH, MBA in Healthcare Administration or similar.
- Students entering their final year of full-time study
- U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; or a Canadian citizen

Award Includes:

- Up to \$5,000 in scholarship and ACHE Awards

🔗 Apply at: <https://www.ache.org/membership/student-resources/dent-and-mcgaw-graduate-student-scholarship>



## 1,000 DREAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

Apply by March 31st, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Women currently enrolled in high school, undergraduate, or graduate programs
- Students must demonstrate financial need

Award Includes:

- One-time educational assistance for needs including but not exclusive to instructional programs related to creative or artistic pursuits
- Graduate Exam Application or textbook fees

🔗 Apply at: <https://1000dreamsfund.org/applications/1000-dreams-scholarship-fund-application/>



## STUDENTS FOR ETHICAL USE OF TECHNOLOGY (SEUT) SCHOLARSHIP

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Apply by March 31st, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Students currently enrolled in High School in the United States

Award Includes:

- Top award of a \$2,000 Scholarship for College Education
- Top 3 Applicants: Will receive an exclusive invitation to join SEUT as a Student Board Member.

🔗 Apply at: <https://www.seut.net/events/scholarship>





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### CHIME SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by March 31st, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- High school seniors, undergraduate, and trade/vocational students
- Open to all ages, including adult/returning students
- Must be eligible for the federal Pell Grant (FAFSA required)
- Minimum 2.5 GPA and must attend school full-time

🔗 Apply at: <https://chimescholarsfoundation.my.site.com/s/>



### 100 HISPANIC WOMEN — SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by April 3, 2026

Includes:

- Shirley Rodriguez Remenski (Associate Degree)
- Young Latinas Leadership Institute — YLLI (Bachelor's)
- Graduate Fellowship (Master's/Doctoral)

🔗 Apply at: [www.100hispanicwomen.org/scholarships](http://www.100hispanicwomen.org/scholarships)



### DENNY'S HUNGRY FOR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by April 12, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- U.S citizen or permanent resident students
- Students with a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- For High school and College students
- If an applicant is under 18 and is selected as a potential HFE scholarship recipient, the student's parent or legal guardian must sign an Affidavit of Eligibility and Assignment of Rights to be confirmed as a winner

Award Includes:

- Students will receive a one-time, non-renewable scholarship of \$1,000.

🔗 Apply at: <https://www.uskli.org/dennys-scholarship-application/>





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### HACEMOS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by April 26th, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Students 25 years old or younger
- High School seniors, graduates, or current undergraduate students
- Must be enrolling full-time in a degree-seeking program
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Must meet at least one of the following: demonstrate commitment to or impact on the Latino community, or be the dependent child of an active HACEMOS member



Award Includes:

- scholarships of \$1,000 to students attending two-year colleges and \$2,000 to those attending four-year institutions.

🔗 Apply at: <https://hacemosscholarship.org/scholarship-page/>



### DENES I. BARDOS AWARD

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by May 1st, 2026 (11:59 PM PT)

For:

- Immigrants currently residing in the United States
- Students in their final year of high school or students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program within the past 6 months

Award Includes:

- \$1000 one-time payment
- Awards are issued in recognition of past achievements and not restricted to finance any particular activities (award winners may use the funds in any manner which they see fit).

🔗 Apply at: <https://www.bardos.foundation/denes-award/>



### BARBARA C. HARRIS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by April 30, 2026 (11:59 PM ET)

For:

- Undergraduate and vocational/trade students
- Descended from enslaved African people
- Residents of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, or Suffolk

Award:

- Two \$5,000 scholarships

🔗 Apply at: [www.dioceseli.org](http://www.dioceseli.org)





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**MOUNTAINSIDE BRIGHTER FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by May 1, 2026

For:

- High school juniors & seniors
- NY, NJ, CT, MA, or PA residents
- Impacted by addiction (family or personal)

Award:

- Ten \$1,000 scholarships

🔗 Apply at: [www.mountainside.com](http://www.mountainside.com)



**LILTA SCHOLARSHIP**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by: May 15, 2026

For:

- High school seniors, undergraduate, or graduate students
- Students enrolled in or applying to an accredited college or university
- Students interested in a career in education

Award Includes:

- Scholarship to support college education

🔗 Apply at: <https://lilta.org/>



**FUNDACIÓN HISPANOAMERICANA SCHOLARSHIP**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Apply by June 5th, 2026

For:

- Students of Hispanic/Latino descent
- Must be a resident of New York State (regardless of legal status)
- High school seniors or students accepted into an accredited 2-year or 4-year college program
- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0

🔗 Apply at: <https://fundacionh.org/becas/>





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# Need Help? College & FAFSA Support Resources

You do not have to navigate the process alone! Start with your high school guidance counselor and the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend, as they can help with applications, FAFSA questions, scholarships, and deadlines. If you are employed, check whether your employer offers tuition assistance or education benefits. Trusted mentors such as teachers, coaches, employers, community leaders, or family friends can also provide valuable guidance and encouragement. The organizations listed on this page offer support with FAFSA completion, scholarship searches, college applications, essay writing, and financial aid questions, and many provide free or bilingual services.



## **NYS DREAM Act & Alternate Eligibility Path (HESC)**

For students not able to file FAFSA, including undocumented students, or who have privacy concerns about filing. Helps families determine the correct pathway to access New York State financial aid.

[NYS DREAM Act: https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ope/trio](https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ope/trio)

[Alternate Eligibility Path: https://hesc.ny.gov/altpath](https://hesc.ny.gov/altpath)



## **Family & Children's Association**

Offers college and career readiness support, financial aid guidance, and FAFSA assistance through workshops and programs which provides hands-on support with FAFSA and scholarship processes for high school students in Nassau County.

<https://www.fcali.org/programs-and-services/youth-services/ladders-to-success/>

- Contact Erica Schifano at (516)-485-4289 x1223 or [Eschifano@FCALI.org](mailto:Eschifano@FCALI.org) for more information.



## **CollegePath (United Way of Long Island)**

Offers support to low- and moderate-income students to complete (FAFSA) and provides volunteers to assist with FAFSA completion appointments. *\*Students who complete the FAFSA may also be entered into scholarship opportunities through the program.\**

<https://www.unitedwayli.org/college-path>

- Contact (631)940-3703 or [SMahoney@Unitedwayli.org](mailto:SMahoney@Unitedwayli.org) to make an appointment.



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**Financial Aid Workshops (Nassau Community College)**

Nassau Community College's Financial Aid Office regularly hosts FAFSA workshops and one-on-one support to help students complete the FAFSA application accurately, understand financial aid packages, and navigate deadlines. They also connect students with scholarship resources.

<https://www.ncc.edu/financialaid/workshops/workshops.shtml>



**Higher Education Services Corporation**

The State's main financial aid agency offers free FAFSA/TAP completion events, virtual drop-in financial aid sessions, and guidance on both federal and state financial aid applications. Students and parents can find upcoming events where experts walk them through the forms step by step.

<https://hesc.ny.gov/>



**SUNY FAFSA Completion Corps**

AmeriCorps-supported initiative in partnership with SUNY campuses that deploys trained near-peer mentors and staff across New York to assist students and families in real time with FAFSA completion support and financial aid guidance.

[https://engage.suny.edu/portal/fafsa\\_workshops](https://engage.suny.edu/portal/fafsa_workshops)



**Federal Student Aid (U.S Department of Education)**

- Free FAFSA application access
- Live chat and phone support
- Information on Pell Grants, Work-Study, and federal loans
- Troubleshooting support for students and parents

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/>



**Federal TRIO Programs**

- Free FAFSA completion assistance
- Scholarship and financial aid guidance
- College application support
- Career exploration and planning
- Academic tutoring and mentoring
- Parent workshops and financial literacy education

<https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ope/trio>



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**Long Island Latino Teachers Association (LILTA)**

A nonprofit organization committed to increasing graduation rates and promoting higher education enrollment, retention, and completion for students across Long Island. LILTA offers scholarships and connects students with educators and mentors who support their academic and career goals.

🔗 Learn more and apply for scholarships: <https://lilta.org>



**Long Island Scholars**

A nonprofit organization that supports motivated, under-resourced public high school students in Nassau, Suffolk, Kings, and Queens counties by helping them prepare for college and career opportunities. Through individualized consulting and college preparatory programming, students receive guidance on college admissions, internships, extracurricular development, and career planning.

🔗 Learn more about programs and eligibility: <https://www.longislandscholars.org/>



**Hispanic Federation – Education Programs**

Provides college readiness resources and workshops that help students and families navigate the college preparation and application process, including career exploration, college applications, and financial aid guidance.

🔗 Learn more about programs and eligibility:  
<https://www.hispanicfederation.org/our-work/education/>



**Local Libraries (Free FAFSA Help & Resources)**

Many local libraries offer free FAFSA workshops, one-on-one assistance, and access to computers and internet for students and families who need support. Libraries are a great, accessible place to get help completing your application and finding reliable information.



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# SCHOLARSHIP TRACKER

*Staying organized is essential to maximizing your opportunities. Use the space below to track the scholarships you apply to, deadlines, and follow-up dates.*

*You may also download our digital tracking spreadsheet by scanning the QR code below.*

## **SCHOLARSHIP #1**

Scholarship Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Applied: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Offered: \_\_\_\_\_

Winner Announcement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Date (if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SCHOLARSHIP #2**

Scholarship Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Applied: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Offered: \_\_\_\_\_

Winner Announcement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Date (if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Download the Digital Scholarship Tracker Spreadsheet**  
**Scan the QR Code**

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(516) 572-0750 | NCHISPANICAFFAIRS@NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV

@HispanicAffairsCASA