

Financial aid resources for students and families

Web sites

AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical need in education, public safety, health, and the environment. Full-time AmeriCorps members who complete their service are eligible to receive an education award. Members who serve part-time receive a partial award: www.americorps.org.

Casey Foundation. This site offers excellent information on helping students in foster care apply for and obtain adequate financial aid: www.casey.org.

College Board. Here you'll find a scholarship search, and various tools in the Financial Aid Easy Planner. You will also be able to apply online for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®, which is required by some colleges: www.collegeboard.com.

FAFSA on the Web. The Web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year (after January 1) for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FastWeb. This site provides extensive information on merit- and need-based scholarships and aid: www.fastweb.com.

FinAid! This is a good site for information about types of financial aid and about applying for financial aid: www.finaid.org.

Finding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid. This is a comprehensive resource on financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study are the three major forms of aid available through the department's Federal Student Aid office. Updated annually. Go to www.studentaid.ed.gov and type Student Guide into the search engine.

FYI3.com. This is a site for foster children, with an easy search for state offerings, including scholarships, for these students: www.FYI3.com.

Internal Revenue Service. Get information on Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits: www.irs.gov.

Mapping Your Future. Here you'll find general information about scholarships, financial aid, planning a career, selecting a college, and paying for it: www.mapping-your-future.org.

Financial aid resources for students and families (page 2)

Sallie Mae. This site provides information about planning for college, applying for loans, managing your loans, finding a job, and using financial aid services: www.collegeanswer.com.

Student Aid on the Web. Get general information from the U.S. Department of Education: www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Books

Getting Financial Aid. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

Fully explains the financial aid process and the types of aid available; gives information on costs and available aid (including special merit scholarships) at each college; provides worksheets.

College Board Scholarship Handbook. New York: The College Board. Updated annually.

A no-nonsense guide to more than 2,100 college scholarships, internships, and loan programs for undergraduate study at U.S. colleges.

Meeting College Costs. New York: The College Board. Published annually.

A workbook that guides families through the complexities of funding a college education.

What College Really Costs. Illinois: Sourcebooks. Updated annually. Written by the staff of *U.S. News and World Report*, this book covers savings and how to pay for college, and has brief descriptions of expenses and financial aid at four-year colleges.