



Green Dollars, Not Red Tape, For Our Students

National College Access Network members know that students who apply for financial aid and receive federal grants are much more likely to enroll in and graduate from college, especially the low-income students we support. NCAN works to build, strengthen and empower communities committed to college access and success so that all students, especially those underrepresented in postsecondary education, can achieve their educational dreams. But to best do that, we need equitable, practical solutions to financing higher education. Policymakers at the local, state and national levels should work toward three immediate policy improvements to cut the red tape, provide the green dollars and make college an affordable reality for all American families.

Policies That Make a Difference

Fix FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is riddled with complications that can disproportionately affect low-income students who lack access to technology or informed mentors. It's time to #FixFAFSA. Policymakers should:

- a. Simplify the FSA ID
- b. Eliminate unnecessary questions
- c. Expand the number of IRS Data Retrieval Tool users
- d. Decrease verification

Keep the promise of the Pell Grant program: The cornerstone of the federal student aid program, the Pell Grant, has not kept up with the cost of higher education. Additionally, although the grants provide crucial support for 9 million students each year, Congress has not scheduled a funding increase beyond 2017. Policymakers should:

- a. Allow students the flexibility to take courses year-round
- b. Tie the Pell Grant to cost of inflation so dollars grow as the economy grows
- c. Fund the Pell Grant program with mandatory spending

Provide work opportunities to low-income students who want them: Federal Work-Study can help reduce the overall debt burden and help students learn how to balance work and school, but the program has limitations. Policymakers should:

- a. Make the funds available to those students who need it most
- b. Expand the public-private partnership to serve more students



For More Information:

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