Working with Special Student Populations
Agenda

1. Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth
2. Students in DCFS/Foster Care
3. Undocumented Students
4. RISE Act Updates
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
Definitions for FAFSA

- **Homeless**: means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. Students may be homeless if they are living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or are temporarily living with other people because they have nowhere else to go. Students may also be homeless if they are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent.

- **Unaccompanied**: means student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- **NOTE**: Homelessness, on its own, does **not** qualify a student as being independent for financial aid purposes.
Obtaining a Homelessness Determination

1. High School Homeless District Liaison:
   - http://webapps.isbe.net/homelesschildliaison/

2. Director of Emergency or Transitional Housing Funded by HUD:

3. Director of Runaway or Homeless Youth Basic Center or Transitional Living Program:
   - http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=37267#a_toc1
Obtaining a Homelessness Determination

- High School Homeless District Liaison

NCLB Homeless Liaison Contact

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM
TITLE VII-B OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT, AS AMENDED BY THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

Homeless Liaison Contact Information
Select a school district to see the current Liaison contact information

- **Burbank SD 111**
  - Bureau Valley CUSD 340
  - Burnham SD 154-5
  - Bushnell Prairie City CUSD 170
  - Butler SD 53
  - Byron CUSD 226
  - Cahokia CUSD 187
  - Cairo USD 1
  - Calhoun CUSD 40
  - Calumet City SD 155
  - Calumet Public SD 132
  - Cambridge CUSD 227
  - Canton Union SD 66
  - Carbon Cliff-Barstow SD 36
  - Carbondale CHSD 165
  - Carbondale ESD 95
  - Carlinville CUSD 1
  - Carlyle CUSD 1

  **School District:** 97016111002
  Burbank SD 111

  **Homeless Liaison:**
  Dr. Carolyn M. Ford
  7600 S. Central
  Burbank, IL 60461
  Phone: 708-496-0500
  Fax: 708-229-0659
  Email: carolynford@bsd111.org

  **District Administrator:**
  Dr. Franzey Fleck
  7600 Central Ave
  Burbank, IL 60459
  Phone: (708) 496-0500 Ext:
  Fax: (708) 496-0510 Ext:
Obtaining a Homelessness Determination

- Director of Emergency or Transitional Housing Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Obtaining a Homelessness Determination

- Director of Runaway or Homeless Youth Basic Center or Transitional Living Program

[Website Link]

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=76383
Students Experiencing Homelessness

Special Considerations

- Students often lack adult support.
- These students may be confused about higher education options and how to access aid for college.
- Students are often hesitant to disclose their living situation.
- They are often unaware of available support services.
- Remember that these students will need additional support once they transition into college as well.
Students in DCFS/Foster Care
DCFS/Foster Care Students

Academic Planning Meeting

A DCFS caseworker meets with the student, the caregiver, and school personnel at the start of each school year to develop an Annual High School Academic Plan to support academic achievement and encourage post-secondary planning.

Senior Year Plan

Every senior year plan includes a discussion of high school graduation requirements as well as a discussion of college application and scholarship deadlines. During senior year, students will also learn about DCFS’ post-secondary service options.
Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?
- Yes
- No

Highest school completed by Parent 1
- Select

Highest school completed by Parent 2
- Select
Community College Payment Program

- **Benefit:** Payment of in-district community college tuition, fees, and books not covered by financial aid grants

- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - Must apply for financial aid through FAFSA.
  - Must be a youth for whom DCFS is legally responsible
  - Must be accepted for enrollment by an in-district community college
  - Has not used his/her four semesters of payments
  - Maintain at least a “C” average
  - For More Information:

- **For more information:**
Education and Training Vouchers

• **Benefit:** Payment of up to $5,000 annually of education related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment, and/or transportation not covered by financial aid grants

• **Eligibility Criteria:**
  • Must apply for financial aid through FAFSA.
  • Youth for whom DCFS is legally responsible or who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or achieved permanency at age 16 or older through either subsidized guardianship or adoption
  • Must attend a post-secondary school listed as accredited by the U.S. Department of Education
  • Make academic progress

• **For more information:**
DCFS Scholarship Program

- **Benefit:** Tuition waiver to any Illinois state funded community college or university, reimbursement of the costs of books not covered by financial aid, and a $511 monthly award for up to five (5) years or through the semester the student turns 23, whichever occurs first.

- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - Must apply for financial aid through FAFSA.
  - Youth for whom DCFS is legally responsible or youth aged out of DCFS guardianship at age 18 or older, or the department must have had legal guardianship for the applicant immediately prior to adoption or guardianship.
  - Successfully compete for a DCFS college scholarship; 53 awarded annually
  - Maintain at least a “C” average
  - Maintain full-time status (12 hours for fall & spring, 6 hours for summer)

- **For more information:**
  https://www.illinois.gov/dcfs/brighterfutures/independence/Documents/YIS.pdf
Youth in College/Vocational Training Program

- **Benefit:** $511 monthly award and reimbursement for books not covered by financial aid

- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - DCFS must have court ordered legal responsibility for youth.
  - Must have high school diploma or GED certificate or be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited university or a vocational training program.
  - Must be at least 16 years old and not yet 21.
  - Maintain at least “C” average each semester.
  - Maintain full-time status (12 hours Fall & Spring, 6 hours in Summer).
  - Submit class schedule at the start of semester and grades at the end.
  - Apply for financial aid every year to cover tuition/room/board.

- **For more information:**
Tuition and Fee Waiver Program

• **Benefit:** Tuition and fee waiver available to Illinois public universities or in-district community college (available for up to 5 consecutive years)

• **Eligibility Criteria:**
  • Must meet one of the following criteria:
    • DCFS has court-ordered legal guardianship for the applicant
    • The applicant aged out of DCFS guardianship at age 18 or older
    • DCFS had legal guardianship for the applicant immediately prior to the adoption or guardianship being finalized
  
  and

  • Must have high school diploma or GED before the start of the year for which the applicant is applying for the waiver
  • Must be enrolled in a qualifying postsecondary education program before the student reaches age of 26
  • Must apply for financial aid through the FAFSA

For more information:
https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/brighterfutures/independence/CYE/Documents/Tuition_and_Fee_Waiver.pdf
Undocumented Students
Understanding Various Immigrant Statuses

Naturalized Citizen
- Born outside the U.S., applied and received US citizenship
- Cannot be US president

Legal Resident
- U.S. permanent resident or having other visa permitting residence in the U.S.
- Cannot vote and cannot be selected for jury duty

Undocumented
- Citizen of a country other than the United States and
  - entered the U.S. “without inspection” or
  - visa expired and remained in the U.S.

**NOTE:** DACA is not officially an immigrant status
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

• June 15, 2012—President Obama announced that many DREAM Act-eligible youths would be offered protection from deportation
  • “Deferred Action”—Eligible youth would be able to legally reside in the US if required criteria are met
    • Arrive in the U.S. before age of 16; must not be over age of 30
    • Must be currently in school, received HS diploma/GED, or been honorably discharged from US armed forces
    • Not convicted of felony or multiple misdemeanors, etc. (i.e. not a threat)
  • Eligible for work permit & social security for work purposes
  • Not eligible for federal student aid
  • Not a path to citizenship
• August 15, 2012—Application period began
• Can be eliminated at any time by the president
DREAM Act – Federal Level

• Immigration reform can only occur at the federal level
• Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act was first introduced in Congress in 2001
  • Path to citizenship for eligible youth
  • Bill has been introduced numerous times but has failed to pass both chambers of Congress
• Not to be confused with the Illinois DREAM Act
Illinois DREAM Act

- Signed August 1, 2011
- Students can participate in 529 savings plans
  - Student need an ITIN to participate
- Sets up DREAM Fund Commission
  - Raises private contributions for DREAM Fund (scholarship)
    - Up to $2,000 for community colleges
    - Up to $6,000 for 4-year colleges
    - Must be an undocumented student to qualify
  - Develops and runs training program
- Does **not** provide any state aid to students
Public Act 93-0007

- Enacted May 20, 2003
- Statute enables eligible students in Illinois to receive in-state tuition at public colleges, if the following criteria are met:
  - Student resided with his or her parent/guardian while attending high school
  - Have graduated from an Illinois high school
  - Have lived in Illinois for three or more years
  - State in affidavit (oath made in writing) that they will apply for permanent residency as soon as they are eligible to do so
Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act

• Signed into law on June 21st, 2019
• The law enables eligible students in Illinois who are not eligible for federal financial aid to apply and receive consideration for state financial aid and benefits
  • Such as:
    • MAP Grant
    • Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship
    • Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)
RISE Act Continued – Eligible Students

• The law defines Illinois resident, as “any person who is deemed an Illinois resident for tuition purposes”.
  • For practical purposes, an eligible student is one who meets the criteria for in-state tuition as defined in Illinois Statute.
    • Public Act 93-0007

• Rise Act Application Process:
  • Available January 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2020 for the 2020-21 academic year
  • Accessible via student portal website
  • Prescreening questions to determine which application (RISE or FAFSA) should be completed
  • Patterned after the FAFSA with skip logic
  • Generates an EFC which will calculate an award amount estimate for MAP
Challenges Faced by Undocumented Students

- Having correct and the most up to date information
- Avoiding unscrupulous individuals such as “notarios”
- Only use qualified immigration lawyers—Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights has list of reputable attorneys
  - [https://www.icirr.org/fsn](https://www.icirr.org/fsn)
- After gaining admission to college, paying for college can be very difficult for many students
- Being able to finance the length of program versus just the first year
- The uncertainty of being able to obtain employment upon their completion of their degree
Access to Professional Licenses for DACA Recipients and Undocumented Students

- **Only Nurses**: California (CA), Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Nebraska (NE)
- **Only Lawyers**: Florida (FL), New York (NY)

Legend:
- Green: No status req for most licenses
- Blue: Lawful status and work authorization
- Yellow: DACA recipients eligible for some licenses

Source: ISAC
College Application Process

• Need to apply during the same time as everyone else
• Most universities have one application
  • Should not fill out international application, since they require additional information/credentials that does not apply to undocumented students (e.g., finances, sponsor, visa, etc.)
  • Contact the admissions office for clarification on application process
• Question about citizenship on application
  • Mostly for tuition purposes
  • Many applications have an “all other” category
• Social Security Number (SSN) is not required
  • Applications will have a statement regarding SSN
    • SSN is used by colleges mostly for disbursing state and federal student aid
    • ITIN is only for tax purposes—it is **not** an SSN
  • Schools will give applicant a random identification number
Admission Decisions

- Decisions are made on academic criteria
  - ACT/SAT
  - Class rank/GPA
  - Rigor of courses
  - Essays
- May 1 is national deadline by which students need to reply to offer of admission
  - Having an award letter in hand prior to May 1 is critical
  - Understanding costs after accepting offer (e.g., tuition deposit, summer registration fees, etc.)
- Do the math!
FAFSA

• Student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen to qualify for financial aid from the Department of Education
  • Having an SSN is not enough to qualify for financial aid

• Eligible non-citizens
  • U.S. Permanent Resident or Conditional Permanent Resident
  • I-94 record showing: Refugee, Asylum Granted, Parolee, T-Visa, Cuban-Haitian Entrant
  • Holder of valid certification or eligibility letter from the Dept. of Human Services showing designation of “Victim of human trafficking”
FAFSA

• DACA students
  • FAFSA: “If you are in the US and have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), . . ., select ‘No, I am not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen,’ You will not be eligible for federal student aid. If you have a Social Security Number but are not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen, including if you have been granted DACA, you should still complete the FAFSA because you may be eligible for state or college aid.”

• Causes confusion for students
• Should work with each individual college office
Parents

• Immigration status of parents does not matter for purposes of the FAFSA—eligibility for aid depends on student’s status
• Parent without an SSN needs to enter 000-00-0000 in the SSN section of the parent information
  • Do not use an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
    • It is NOT the same as an SSN
    • ITIN is used by IRS so that an individual without an SSN can fill out information on income tax forms
• Students that file electronically would need to submit the parent signature page through the US mail
Eligibility for Financial Assistance

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<th>Citizenship Status</th>
<th>Federal Aid</th>
<th>State Aid (IL)</th>
<th>Institutional Aid</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Citizen U.S. Permanent Resident/Eligible noncitizen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No/Yes*</td>
<td>Varies by institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-eligible noncitizen</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No/Yes*</td>
<td>Varies by institution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Effective as of January 1, 2020
Financial Aid Tips

• Remember, private colleges can award institutional funds to undocumented students
  • May have separate scholarship forms/applications
  • Contact institution to determine what steps should be taken
• Scholarships
  • Each scholarship form will have eligibility criteria
  • Determine requirements if recurring
  • The community can be the best source for scholarships
  • Make sure to apply for scholarships every year!
• Create a budget
  • Avoid running out of money before the end of each term
  • Have award letters, compare them, and make the best financial decision to help with this
Resources

- College Guide for Undocumented Students
  [www.iacac.org/undocumented](http://www.iacac.org/undocumented)
- National Immigrant Justice Center
  [www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org) or (312) 660-1370
- Legal Aid Chicago:
  [https://www.legalaidchicago.org/](https://www.legalaidchicago.org/) or (312) 341-1070
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR):
  [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org) or (312) 332-7360
- Chicago Public Schools
  [https://cps.academicworks.com/](https://cps.academicworks.com/)
Thank you!

Questions? Email
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Meghan.Chrum@Illinois.gov