




III DREAM ACT



UNDOCUMENTED
STUDENT GUIDE
COLLEGE



UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT
GUIDE TO COLLEGE

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Governor Pat Quinn signs the IL Dream Act into law on Monday August 1st, 2011 at Chicago's Benito Juarez High School.

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01 INTRODUCTION



The Importance of the IL DREAM Act

The Urban Institute estimates that 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools every year. The messy reality of global migration poses major uncertainties and obstacles for many students when it comes to college admissions, financial aid and enrollment processes.

The IL DREAM Act is a significant step forward for undocumented students. Although the act does not provide a legal pathway to citizenship, it recognizes the rights of undocumented youth to invest in their education and attempts to address the undocumented student's financial need for higher education, access to resources and information, and making sure counselors are better prepared to help students meet their educational goals

In 1982, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Plyler vs Doe that public schools are prohibited from denying immigrant students access to a public K-12 education. Public schools and school personnel are also prohibited from adopting policies or taking action that deny students access to education based on their immigration status.

Education is a right for all people, regardless of status. It is not merely something we 'must do' as a means in attaining a better lifestyle, but an opportunity for political engagement which we have the right to do. The process may be frustrating, but it CAN be done. Continuing education can help individuals attain their goals in life, open new opportunities, friendships, partnerships, etc.

These opportunities have not always been open to undocumented youth, and are not open everywhere. In many states, unfortunately, hostility towards undocumented immigrants has only grown. There are currently only 13 states that provide in-state tuition for undocumented youth.

In 2003 the state of Illinois passed bill HB60, making in-state tuition available for undocumented youth at public colleges and universities. In Illinois, you have a right to go to college, no matter your immigration status.

The IL DREAM Act finally passed in May of 2011 only after months of meetings, negotiations, and trips to Springfield where hundreds of different, undocumented youth and

In 2003 the state of Illinois passed bill HB60, making in-state tuition available for undocumented youth at public colleges and universities. **You have a right to go to college, no matter your immigration status.**

community members, leaders, and organizers who pushed and lobbied legislators tirelessly to pass the bill.

In order to make sure these rights and earned opportunities are respected we all need to speak up. You need to speak up to make sure you are not denied your right to an education.

When you speak up, when you act, when you let people know what you need, then you can work on creating change. If no one knows about your status, no one can help you.

This may mean, if you are comfortable, coming out to your college counselor about your status. Know that counselors may not legally ask about the immigration status of a student, so you will have to be the one to initiate the conversation. A counselor will be better able to help you if they are aware of your status.

We hope this guide helps you navigate some of the complicated and confusing routes to accessing higher education. Please note that even though we have tried to the best of our abilities to gather useful information, we may not have answered all the questions you have. Let us know if we are missing something or if you want to share an experience with us. Good luck!

02

HB60 & THE IL DREAM ACT: THE FACTS

HB 60: In-state Tuition

HB 60, passed in 2003 was a significant win for young immigrants in Illinois. It qualifies eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition when attending public universities in Illinois.

Students must meet the following requirements:

1. The individual resided with his or her parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois.
2. The individual graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois (the GED).
3. The individual attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.
4. In the case of an individual who is not a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States, the individual provides the university with an affidavit (see page 9) stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so.

IL DREAM Act

This legislation makes Illinois the first state in the country to create a private scholarship fund for undocumented youth. It also eases the path to higher education for undocumented youth, 65% of whom come from households that earn 200% under the poverty line. While not comparable to FAFSA, the passage of the bill is an incredible victory that lays a foundation for other states to follow.

» STATES THAT OFFER IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT, KANSAS, ILLINOIS, MARYLAND, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, UTAH, WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN

What Will the IL DREAM Act¹ Do?

1. Allows anyone with a taxpayer number, including undocumented students, to participate in the State Treasurer's College Savings Pool and the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan. These programs allow families of DREAM youths to plan ahead and invest and save for their children's college education.
2. High school college counselors are required to be better trained and prepared to know what college options are available for undocumented students and children of immigrants. This will ensure that undocumented students will receive correct information about opportunities available to them after high school. These trainings will be incorporated into existing trainings for counselors.
3. Requires the IL Student Assistance Commission to establish an Illinois DREAM Fund Commission that will oversee the Act's provisions. The commission will consist of nine unpaid members reflecting geographic and ethnic diversity appointed by Governor Quinn. The DREAM Commission will provide scholarships funded entirely by private donors and contributions.

The IL DREAM Fund Commission is responsible for overseeing fundraising for the fund, establishing, publicizing, and administering scholarships for qualified students, and researching educational opportunities for immigrant youth.

Who Qualifies?

In order to qualify for the benefits of the IL DREAM Act, you must:

1. Have resided with parents or guardians while attending high school in Illinois;
2. Have attended a high school in Illinois for at least 3 years from the time of graduation or receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma (such as GED);
3. Have at least one parent who immigrated to the United States.

1. Source: Full text for SB 2185: IL DREAM Fund Commission can be found at <http://www.ilga.gov>.

IL College Saving Program/Bright Start/Bright Directions

The Act would also make certain state college savings programs available to immigrant youths, including the Bright Start and Bright Directions programs administered by the State Treasurer and the College Illinois pre-paid tuition program.

The IL College Savings Program allows a student's family to set up an account with Illinois and to set aside money every month to pay into the account. The family will negotiate a set tuition with a designated Illinois school and the savings from the account will go into the student's tuition. Tuition negotiated with school. A student's family will be paying today's tuition rates for their child's future education.

The Bright Star/Bright Directions program is similar: the family sets up an account, pays into it, and when the student enters college, they can draw out of it to pay for tuition.

Anyone with a valid Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) could open an account or draw upon the account to pay for college. The ITIN is a nine digit number beginning with the number "9" and is formatted like the SSN. It is used for tax purposes only for certain residents, nonresidents, their spouses, and their dependents. It cannot be used for employment. **An ITIN cannot be used for FAFSA.**



Bright Start

<https://www.brightstartsavings.com/>
1.877.43.BRIGHT (1.877.432.7444)
PO Box 6498
Chicago, IL 60680



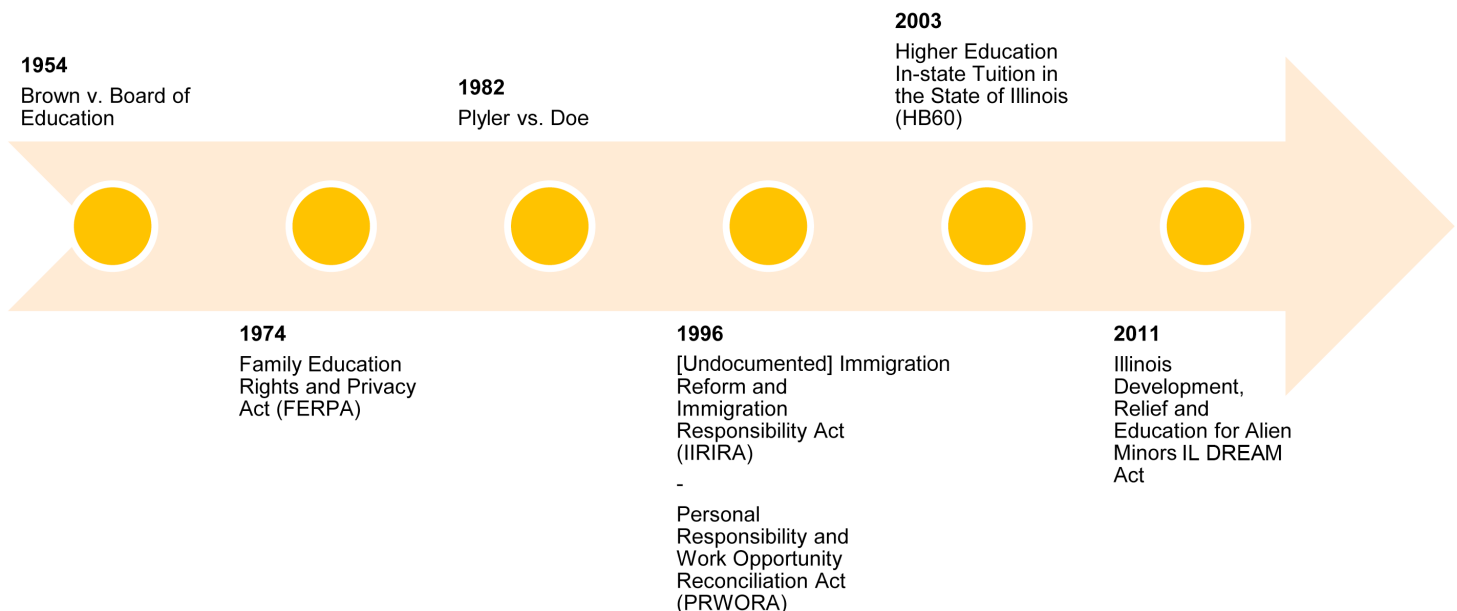
Bright Directions

<http://www.brightdirections.com/>
866-722-7283
PO Box 82623
Lincoln, NE 68501

An ITIN can be obtained by filling out an IRS form, the W-7. This form is downloadable off the internet at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw7.pdf. You can also find a guide to the ITIN application on the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Neither of these college savings programs advertises an email address, so go online and fill out your information to contact them electronically.

IMMIGRANT SENSITIVE LAWS





At a Chicago New Americans Rally on April 30 in support of the IL DREAM Act

What's Next? The IL DREAM Act Implementation Steps

The Dream Commission that would set up the scholarships has not been appointed as of this publishing. This means scholarships are not yet available. There are several steps left for the IL DREAM Act to be implemented. Below is an outline of what needs to be done in order for the law to become reality.

1. Governor Quinn must appoint a volunteer-based nine member Dream Commission who will be responsible for the implementation of the IL DREAM Act;

2. IL Senate must confirm Dream Commission.

Note: Senate confirmation for Commissioners who are serving without compensations, such as Dream Commissioners, can be done in a Senate hearing during the Fall Legislative Session. The Legislature will be in session October 25, 26 and 27 and November 6, 7 and 8 and then not again until February 2012;

3. The Dream Commission is established by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and hires staff to assist the Commission in carrying out its mission from privately raised funds. The Illinois Dream Fund is established by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. At this time the Dream Fund can receive funds raised and held by Dream Team community activists;

4. The Dream Commission establishes the "Dream Fund NFP", a not for profit corporation that can receive tax deductible contributions from larger individual or corporate donors.

5. The Dream Commission issues rules for the award of scholarships to Dream Act eligible students

6. The Dream Commission establishes training programs for high school counselors, admissions officers and financial aid officers to instruct students, parents and community members on the opportunities for college bound students. This will include information on in-state tuition and scholarship programs, including the Dream Fund.

Implementing the IL DREAM Act is a lengthy process. Meanwhile, there are many community organizations hosting their own fundraisers to raise money for the scholarship fund. Community leaders are also looking for private donors to donate private funds to the commission.

We suggest you actively search for other privately funded scholarships open to all students regardless of immigration status. Also, don't be afraid to get creative! Host your own fundraiser and create your own scholarship in your community or school! For more information on scholarships and alternatives, see *Funding Your Education* on page 12.

03

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. Can I move to IL and benefit from the IL DREAM Act?

No, in order to qualify for the Illinois Dream Act you must have attended a high school for at least 3 years in Illinois and have received the equivalent of a high school diploma or GED.

2. Does the IL DREAM Act provide driver's certificate?

No, the IL Dream Act currently does not provide a driver's certificate.

3. Does the IL DREAM Act provide a path to citizenship?

No. It is only within federal government's jurisdiction to pass citizenship laws. The federal DREAM Act which would have provided undocumented youth with a pathway if they complete two years of college or military service, was brought up for a vote in December 2010. Undocumented youth all over the country pushed for the bill.

Though it passed the House, it did not pass the Senate. Senator Durbin (D-IL) reintroduced the bill in the Senate in May 2011. It is unknown when it will be up for a vote.

4. When can I apply for scholarships?

Scholarships through the Dream Fund are not available as of this publishing. As we mentioned in the previous chapter, the Dream Fund Commission, responsible for fundraising and administering scholarships, has not been established yet.

For the most up to date information on the IL DREAM Act, visit www.icirr.org or www.iyjl.org.

5. Does making an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) number make me less safe?

An ITIN is given to those who do not qualify for a social security number, this includes undocumented immigrants and foreign investors. According to federal law, the IRS cannot share the information they gather with the

Department of Homeland Security. **Be advised that scholarships awarded by the IL DREAM fund do not require an ITIN.**



ICIRR Leaders with IL DREAM Act House Sponsor Representative Edward Acevedo



Students and supporters with ICIRR at a press conference after the IL DREAM Act passes the House.

6. Do I need a social security number/ITIN number to apply for the Dream Scholarship fund?

No, the application for the Dream Scholarship fund will not require a social security number or ITIN. But in order to enroll in Illinois' College Savings Pool, the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan, Bright Start and Bright Directions you and your parents require an ITIN or social security number.

7. Do I have to come out as undocumented to be eligible for resources available for undocumented youth?

You do not have to come out as undocumented in order to be eligible for resources aimed towards undocumented youth but undocumented youth who confide in teachers and counselors that they trust have access to more resources than those that stay quiet. Teachers, counselors, and community members will not know what your exact needs are if you do not share with them what you need.

>> By the numbers

1.8 MILLION ^{2*} immigrants living in Illinois.

800,000 are citizens.

500,000 have visas or legal permanent residency.

There are 11-12 million undocumented people living in the United States.

More than 500,000 are undocumented. 65,000 graduate from high school every year

8. What if my financial aid/admissions advisor requires me to fill out the FAFSA?

If your financial aid/admissions advisor suggests you fill out the FAFSA and you do not have a social security number, you can fill it out but **DO NOT submit it. Undocumented students do not qualify for FAFSA and submitting FAFSA forms with false information is against the law.**

9. My high school counselor informed me that I will be ineligible for college because of my status, are they correct?

Undocumented students are not banned from attending public universities in the state of Illinois and they qualify for private scholarships. Currently, the IL DREAM Act requires all high school counselors to have some knowledge on how to provide resources for undocumented youth but not all of high school counselors have experience with providing the appropriate information. We encourage you to contact any organization listed in Appendix B for resources.

If you have more questions that are not answered by this guide, email info@iyjl.org, or ssmith@icirr.org.

Yesenia Sanchez of P.A.S.O. and Rosi Carrasco of LOS discussing financial aid opportunities. Talk to community leaders and organizations. They can be instrumental in helping you find scholarships.



2. Source: Pew Hispanic Center, <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1190/portrait-undocumented-immigrants-states>

04 PREPARING FOR COLLEGE



Education Is a Right!

In the U.S. all people are entitled to a free education, at least up until the 12th grade. But what happens when we graduate from high school? By law, under the Plyler vs. Doe Supreme Court ruling, undocumented children have equal access to K-12 education, including counseling services. A college education will improve job opportunities in the future and allow you to form networks with different groups that can help you reach your goals. Although undocumented youth cannot work legally in the U.S., no one can take your education away from you; it is your right!

Preparing in High School (And Earlier)

The college-preparing process begins in high school and even earlier. Whether you are in high school or junior high, start thinking about going to college and how you can prepare.

Prepare for college by:

- **Talk to your high school guidance counselor** about preparing for college, what courses to take, and to help you begin searching for scholarships that don't require citizenship status.

Counselors cannot report you. They follow a Code of Ethics and must keep information confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent imminent danger to the student. Begin having these conversations as early as freshman year. Work out a plan on making your transcript stand out from the crowd and what you can do to reach your goals.

- **Take advantage of college prep courses**, especially Advanced Placement (AP) courses. You may be able to receive college credit. Colleges and scholarships take into account the academics of your application.
- **Work hard in school.** Your grade point average (GPA) will be considered during the college admission process. Doing well in school also increases your chances in securing private scholarships.

- **Study for the standardized tests.** Join SAT and/or ACT prep courses throughout your junior year of high school to better prepare for these exams. Colleges and scholarships consider your ACT and SAT exam scores. Research the colleges/universities that you are considering and find out if you need either the ACT or SAT. Plan accordingly to take the tests.
- **Get involved!** Even if you are not in high school yet, it's never too early to start becoming involved. Consider looking into summer programs that local universities offer for junior high students to explore potential career options. Ask your teachers/parents where you can volunteer and what summer programs are available in your community. Universities and scholarships seek students who are involved in their communities. Internships, sports, extracurricular activities, and volunteer opportunities provide you with valuable experience that set you apart from other college applicants.



Immigrant Youth College Fair in Cicero, IL, in December 2010 hosted by the Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) and Nuestra Voz.



Students and supporters with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and IYJL in Springfield, IL lobbying for the IL DREAM Act.

It also greatly improves your chances in finding and qualifying for scholarships at the colleges you're applying to and elsewhere. Simply put, it looks great on your transcript!

- **Research the schools and universities** you are considering applying to and look at admission requirements. (See Appendix A)
- **Reach out to teachers** who are familiar your schoolwork and know you well to write recommendation letters for your college application. Become involved in extracurricular activities to help your teachers write great recommendation letters.
- **Consider the type of college you want to attend.** Cost is major factor when choosing a college. Community colleges are usually cheaper than universities and usually offer similar courses. You can always transfer out to a four year institution after attending a community college. On page 13 is a table detailing the average costs for different institution types.

Private colleges are also not out-of-reach. In fact, many private colleges can often provide undocumented students with more funds than public colleges and universities. Some private colleges, however, treat undocumented students as international students and you may be asked to fill out an international student application to apply.

When considering **out-of-state** institutions, keep in mind that not all states embrace immigrant populations.

The Affidavit

When you have been accepted to a public school in Illinois, are ready to enroll, and are eligible for in-state tuition, you will probably have to sign an affidavit form to qualify.

You may be worried about what signing this form means, but forms such as these are part of a student's records and as such, what you reveal remains confidential information under the Federal Education and Privacy Act (FERPA). You do not have to be concerned about privacy when revealing your citizenship status on this form or any college form/application.

This form is usually just trying to confirm if you lived with your parents while attending high school in Illinois, if you were in high school in Illinois for three years before graduating, and if you graduated or received the equivalent of a high school diploma (such as the GED).

They will often ask you to sign an affidavit stating your intention to apply to become a permanent resident in the United States as soon as you are able to do so. Affidavit forms for in-state tuition eligibility may vary by school, but most forms will correspond to the requirements for in-state tuition outlined in HB 60. The affidavit usually looks like this:

AFFIDAVIT

I, _____, hereby swear that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at my earliest opportunity to do so.

Student Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

05 FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION



FAFSA & Applications

Undocumented students do not qualify for federally funded scholarships or grants, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). **Please note, if you are undocumented, do not submit a FAFSA form. DO NOT under any circumstance provide any false information on any application.**

When filling out college applications, providing a social security number is optional and never required. Remember that it is against the law to use a social security number that is not your own or a false one.

What determines student eligibility for state and federal financial aid programs is the status of a student NOT that of a parent. So, if a student applying for financial aid is a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident, but one or more parents are undocumented, the student is eligible for federal student aid.

Undocumented **parents** should use 000-00-0000 as their social security number on the FAFSA. The FAFSA will also be rejected when the parents submit an ITIN.

Undocumented parents cannot request a PIN number to sign the FAFSA electronically. They must sign the application and send it by mail.

Note that some private scholarships may ask you to submit a FAFSA to prove financial need by printing it out and mailing it to them and not sending a copy to the government. If they ask you to do this, it may be because it is their only way to measure financial aid, so make sure that if you send the form to them that you **do not send one to the government.**

Be sure to consult with someone from the college you're applying to before submitting any documentation.

Scholarships

The IL Dream Act Fund has not been created yet, but many schools offer private scholarships to students regardless of their immigration status. Many private schools are able to offer scholarships that pay part of a student's tuition if they are the most qualified candidate regardless of status. This is why doing well in high school and/or being involved in the community is so important- it gives you a competitive advantage to winning scholarships!

Ask colleges that you are applying to about the private scholarships that they offer and what the requirements are and if they require students to be legal permanent residents or U.S. citizens.

Make an appointment with a college financial advisor or an admission officer at the colleges you are applying to and inquire about what resources are available for undocumented students.

Many communities have also created their own scholarships to help with the cost of tuition or books for college. Look into different community centers, churches or local schools to find out if they have scholarships open to all students. No matter what the amount is, scholarships add up!

Tips for Scholarship Applications

- Put a lot of time and energy into applications especially the personal statement if a scholarship requires it. You may choose to talk about your immigration status and the obstacles you had to overcome because of your status in the personal statement.

**Database of
private scholarships available to
undocumented students
living in Illinois:
www.ICIRR.org/Education
www.DREAMERSUNIDOS.com**

AVERAGE BUDGET FOR UNDERGRADUATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE

	Tuition and Fees	Room and Board	Books and Supplies	Transportation	Total (for an average year)
Public two-year College In-district (Chicago City Colleges)	\$2,713 average, \$89 per credit hour at Chicago City Colleges	--	\$1,133	--	\$3,846 \$3,981 at Chicago City Colleges
Public Two-year out of district	\$173.56 per credit hour	--	\$1,133	--	\$6,553
Public two-year out of state	\$230.35 per credit hour	--	\$1,333		\$6,371
Public four-year in-state	\$7,605 average, \$14,414 at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	\$8,535	\$1,137	\$1,073	\$20,339
Public four-year out of state	\$19,595 average, \$18,794 at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$8,535	\$1,137	\$1,037	\$32,329

- Or you may choose to explain simply why you are applying: “Due to my citizenship status, I am ineligible for federal financial aid.” It is your choice if you want to come out about your status in the essay. Most importantly, remember to address the essay’s question.
- Once you have created a solid personal statement and gathered all the documents that scholarship applications require, you will be able to use the same materials again.
- Use concrete examples when you write about your strengths.
- Answer questions clearly and directly. Type and proofread essays. Spelling mistakes and bad grammar are unacceptable and can be the difference between getting the scholarship and losing it. Adhere to the word and page limits. Have at least two people look over your personal statements. If English is not your first language, ask for your English teacher’s help.
- Research the particular organization offering the scholarship to understand what they are looking for in applicants. If you clearly articulate why you are a good fit for a particular organization, you help the selection committee in choosing you as the right candidate.
- Make sure your application is consistently well put together. It’s all about the package. Read over all the application materials to see if they reflect who you are as a whole. Materials should complement one another.
- Many private scholarships require face-to-face interviews. So it’s a good idea to prepare and practice public speaking.
- Find an advocate to help you; if you’re uncomfortable, ask your counselor or teacher to inquire on your behalf. Make sure that whoever calls is knowledgeable about your immigration status. Ask your high school counselor, the financial aid office staff, the admissions office, and even sympathetic teachers and professors who are if they know of any resources.
- Don’t be discouraged; if it turns out that the scholarship has specific residency requirements, keep looking for other scholarships. Don’t be afraid to ask questions if you’re unsure about something.
- Check to see if there is an appeal process. If you are awarded a scholarship from the college you are applying to but the award money is not enough, be aware that some colleges have an appeal process in

WHAT ARE MY FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS?

	United States Citizen	Legal Permanent Resident	Visa Holder	Undocumented
Federal Aid	Yes	Yes	No	No
State Aid	Yes	Yes	No	No
In-State Tuition (HB 60)	Yes, if you meet IL residency requirements	Yes, if you meet IL residency requirements	Depends on your visa; not eligible for HB 60	Yes, if eligible under HB 60
Government Loans	Yes	Yes	No	No
Private Loans	Yes	Yes	Yes, but need resident co-signer	Yes, but need resident co-signer
Government Grants	Yes	Yes	No	No
Institutional Aid	Yes	Yes	Depends on your visa and the school you attend	Depends on school you attend
Work-Study	Yes	Yes	No	No
Private Scholarships	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements

which you may receive additional aid under special circumstances.

Questions to Ask Financial Aid Advisors/ Admission Officers

When you call a financial aid or admissions office, first find out if there is someone who specializes in working with undocumented students. Some questions to think about asking are:

- How would an undocumented student answer the citizenship question on the application? Which box should I check on your application? Do I leave the social security number space blank or put zeros? Will your system let me fill out an application online if I don't put a SSN or should I fill out a paper application?
- How do I start the process to be considered for financial aid? What forms do I have to fill out/submit?
- Do you offer fee or tuition waivers and if so, how can I apply for one?
- How can I qualify for in-state tuition?
- What kind of financial aid is available to a student without a social security number?
- Do you offer institutional scholarships for undocumented students? What about private scholarships?
- Are these scholarships merit based? Beyond merit, what other aid is available?
- What are the qualifications to apply for these scholarships?
- If I am awarded this scholarship, what do I need to do to keep it? Can I lose the scholarship if I get poor grades?
- Are these scholarships good for the entire time the student is at your school? What if it takes 5 years to graduate?
- Do you have any scholarships for transfer students?



Don't be afraid to ask financial aid advisors questions about ways to fund your education!

- Are there majors that are not available to me because of my status?
- Does applying to this school/major require a background check?
- Would I be able to work if I graduated with this type of degree; would it lead to a background check or a certificate or state licensure that I would be ineligible for because I'm undocumented?

Further Alternatives

Many undocumented students have been creative in creating their own alternatives to find money to pay for college.

- **Use online resources.** Students have used websites like ChipIn.com to collect money to pay for part of their tuition, books, and other costs. ChipIn allows you to create an online account that can be promoted through an embedded ChipIn Widget on your website. You can also create your own ChipIn page at yourname.chipin.com. You can post your personalized link on your Facebook page, Twitter, blog and other social media sites you may use. Don't forget to ask your friends to share it with their contacts!

- **Hold a fundraiser.** Students have also been able to create their own scholarships by hosting fundraisers. Youth have held bake sales, car washes, or dances in their school or local community organization to fundraise money for private scholarships. Don't forget to publicize your fundraiser on social media! Create a Facebook event and invite your friends, family, and teachers! Many have raffled off sports t-shirts, gift baskets, or other items to fundraise extra money for textbooks. Ask your friends and family members to sell tickets at their school and at work! Explain to people the importance of the raffle you're holding.
- **Private loans** are available from some banks. A qualified borrower who is undocumented must have a credit-worthy cosigner. Be wary that private loans may also come with high interest rates.
- **Draft a donation letter.** Ask family, friends, and local businesses to support you financially in achieving your education. Donations letters should include why you're pursuing higher education and the financial struggles you might encounter in achieving your dreams.

Don't forget to thank your donors!

06 WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

Looking for Help

Contact the Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) or the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) if you run into difficulties, such as:

- A counselor who says you can't go to college.
- A university that says you can't apply as an undocumented student.
- A public university that says they will not provide in-state tuition to you.

If you are an undocumented student and you end up in deportation proceedings **call the ICIRR Family Support Hotline: 1-855-435-7693.**

The hotline is designed to help families across Illinois experiencing deportation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is not a legal advice hotline, but it does refer callers to lawyers trusted by ICIRR who will provide a free first consultation.

Other services include referrals to social services that may be available, citizenship services, ministry referral, and post-call accompaniment by ICIRR's Family Support Network.

Reach out to the Education Not Deportation for more information on fighting your case: www.endnow.org. Education Not Deportation ("END") is a national campaign to prevent the deportations of young people, thereby allowing immigrant youth to continue their lives in the United States, pursue higher education and achieve their dreams.

Contact one of the organizations listed in Appendix B for advice.



Launch of ICIRR's volunteer run Family Support Hotline.

APPENDIX A COLLEGES

Contact the admissions officer at these universities for the most up-to-date information. For a complete list of higher education institutions in Illinois go to: <http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/InstitutionProfiles/Institutions.aspx>

ILLINOIS COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
Aurora University	Jill Bures, (680) 844-3849 jburess@aurora.edu	Between \$2,000-\$10,000	They assist students in scholarship search	Answer non-citizen	All zeros	Free online application
Bradley University	Monica Evans, mcevans@bradley.edu (800) 447-6460, RC San Jose, Rodney@bradley.edu (800) 447-6460	Presidential Scholarship, Deans Scholarship, University Scholarship, Provost-Garret Scholarship	No. Only accept the FAFSA	Can mark not a citizen.	Leave it blank	Free online application
Chicago State University	John Martinez, Associate Director (773) 995-3578 jr-martinez1@csu.edu	For Latino students who meet criteria, including at least 18 on ACT and 3.0/4.0 GPA	Application for the Latino Resource Center Scholarship	On paper application, request consideration under Illinois Public Act 93-007	Leave it blank, CSU will create a school ID	Yes, but signature page should be printed and mailed
College of DuPage	Saraliz Jimenez, Latino Center Coordinator, jimene@c od.edu, 630.942.3039	Some academic scholarships available.		Enter "other"	On paper application, leave blank. Call university for assigned ID number to fill in online application	Documentation must be included for application fee waiver to be considered
College of Lake County	Sergio Dominguez, Admissions Rep (847) 543-2389 sdominguez@clcillinois.edu	Yes, requirements vary	Fill out CLC Scholarship application	Can't leave question blank, answer "non-citizen"	Use zeros or write in "none"	No application fee
Depaul University	Sparkle Hunt, Multicultural Recruitment Coordinator, Admission Counselor, 773 325-8523 or shunt6@depaul.edu	Merit-based scholarships available, qualifications vary by scholarship and college	Can meet with financial aid advisor	Option to chose "non-U.S citizen" on application	Not required	Can submit application without fee, then submit fee waiver with supplemental materials

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
Dominican University	Glenn Hamilton (708) 524-6795 Hamilton@dom.edu	Merit-based scholarships range from \$4,500-\$17,500. Top candidates can be eligible for the Presidential Scholarships and the Dean's Scholarship	Not currently available	Students have the option of answering the citizenship question.	Not required on our application for enrollment.	Online application is free
Eastern Illinois University	Brenda Major (217) 581-5933 bmajor@eiu.edu	The university works to assist students to find private, merit-based scholarship funds	EIU does not have institutional financial aid application	They should put "undocumented" both on paper copy and online applications. No penalty for leaving it blank, application is still processed	Enter all zeros	Must submit a paper application to waive the application fee
Elmhurst College	Rolando Chacon, chaconr@elmhurst.edu, (630) 617-3633	Merit-based scholarships between \$,000-\$19,000, typical criteria are 3.5/4.0 GPA and 25 ACT	N/A	Application asks yes/no if citizen. Then asks country of residency, may explain status.	Not required, leave blank.	No application fee.
Illinois College	Rick Bystry (217) 245-3030 rlbystry@ic.edu	Merit-based scholarships range from \$8,000 to \$16,000 a year	Yes, we have some need-based assistance for undocumented students.	Answer "non-citizen"	SSN not needed; can put in all zeros	No application fee
Illinois Institute of Technology	Tanya Cabrera, Assit. Director of Undergraduate Admissions, tcabrera@iit.edu, (312) 567-6943/ F(312) 567-6939, Leticia Moreno, Financial Aid Counselor, lmoreno2@iit.edu (312) 567-342	Available merit-based scholarships include Heald Scholarships (up to \$10,000), IIT University Scholarship (up to \$10,000), and Camras Scholarship (full-tuition)	Federal aid is only available for students who complete the FAFSA. Undocumented students must contact the office of financial aid regarding the process to obtain need-based aid. All students are automatically reviewed for merit based aid.	Leave the question blank	Leave blank	Online application free
Illinois State University	Dave Marcial dmarcia@ilstu.edu (309) 438-2181	Presidential Scholarship \$8,000, University Scholarship \$5,000, and community college transfer scholarships \$1,500	ISU encourages students to search for scholarships and offer alternative loan options	Includes option to identify as "undocumented"	Do not need to enter SSN	Submit application, then counselor must submit request proving that student is eligible

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
Illinois Wesleyan University	Nancy Vasquez nvasquez@iwu.edu (800) 332-2498	Range from \$7,000-\$12,000, small number of full-tuition awards in music (primarily string instruments)	Offers institutional need-based grants for undocumented students	Mark "non-citizen" or leave the question blank	Enter zeros	No application fee
Knox College	Jennifer Keegan, Associate Director of Admission, 309-341-7163 jkeegan@knox.edu	Knox considers undocumented students for merit-based scholarships just as any other applicants	Maximum standard award of half comprehensive fee. There is a limited number of larger awards. Should mail in paper version of FAFSA	Select "Other" and indicate country(ies) of citizenship or indicate "Stateless." Under visa type, select "I do not hold a non-immigrant Visa"	Leave it blank	Can waive fee
Lake Forest College	Bill Motzer, Vice President for Admissions and Career Services 847-735-5011 motzer@lakeforest.edu; Susan Langner, Associate Director of Admissions 847-735-5012 langner@lakeforest.edu	Global Enrichment Scholarships for \$15 000 available. Can also apply for Forester Scholarship (academic or talent-based awards) for up to \$8,000 per year.	Up to \$23,000. Submit Lake Forest FASTAPP or Lake Forest International Student Application for Financial Aid	Answer "Other"	Not required field	Free online application at www.lakeforestedge.org. Can submit fee waiver for online Common Application
Lewis University	Andrew B. Sison, Dean of Undergraduate Admission 815-836-5684 sisonan@lewisu.edu	\$5,000-12,000	Not available	Answer "I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident."	Valid SSN required for online application. Use zeros on printed application	\$40. Students can get a waiver if they submit a request from their high school (written on high school letterhead).
Lincoln Christian University	Krista Brooks, VP of Enrollment Management, 888-522-5228, admissions@lincolnchristian.edu	Academic and multicultural scholarships starting at \$2000 per year	May qualify for institutional need based awards	Answer "Other" on new application	Not required	
Loyola University	N/A. They work with students based on high school attended	Based on set academic criteria	Through FAFSA	Choices regarding citizenship are US citizen, US Permanent Resident, or Other [select other if undocumented].	Not required.	Free online application.

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
Northeastern Illinois University	María E. Luna-Duarte or Rebeca Lamadrid-Quevedo Northeastern Illinois University-El Centro Campus PH (773) 442-4080/86 FX (773) 442-4085 elcentro@neiu.edu	As of the 2011 summer Merit Based Scholarships are open to undocumented students. For these scholarships students can also leave SSN field blank or write down an NEIU ID number once is issued	Currently there is no need based financial aid available to undocumented students.	Mark non-US citizen and write country of citizenship	Leave blank	Fee waivers can only be submitted on paper due to required counselor signatures
Northern Illinois University	Robert Burk, Director and Wendy Raver, Associate Director 815-753-0446 admissions@niu.edu	Any scholarship that does not require FAFSA is available for undocumented students	See scholarship application	Answer question as non-citizen	Leave blank	Can waive fee
North Central College	Martha Stolze, Director of Admission 630-637-5800 mastolze@noctrl.edu	Awarded based on academic indicators	Comparable to offers to international students. It is asked to complete an institutional profile and to submit income documents (i.e. W-2's, 1040's)	Leave blank	Complete paper application. Online application will not accept a blank SSN	No application fee
Oakton Community College	Erica Gonzalez, egonzal@oakton.edu, 847-635-1479 Luis Roberto Caballero 847 376 7126 lcaballe@oakton.edu Other people in admissions can also answer questions.	Few merit based scholarships, ranging from \$500 to full tuition. No room and board charge since there is no on-campus room and board. The scholarships look at both financial need and GPA.	Text book voucher program. It takes financial need into consideration, not GPA or residency.	Mark "undocumented"	Complete paper application and leave section blank (Can't do online application)	Application fee added to tuition bill.
Roosevelt University	Mike Dessimoz, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services 312-341-2121 mdessimoz@roosevelt.edu	Based on curriculum, cumulative GPA, and composite test results		Mark "Other" or leave blank	Leave blank	Can waive fee
Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)	Rey Diaz rdiaz@siu.edu	Available Available. All core scholarships, freshman scholarships, Provost, presidential, etc, have no residency requirement.	only through FAFSA	Mark "Requesting consideration under Public Law 93-007"	Leave blank. Later on the university will give a student ID number to the student	Can waive fee

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville)	Todd Burrell, Director of Admissions tburrell@siue.edu; Terri Montgomery, Associate Director of Admissions tmontgo@siue.edu; Shauna Lehman, Assistant Director of Admissions slehman@siue.edu 800-447-SIUE	Can apply for Meridian Scholarship for full tuition/ fees, room and board; minimum 27 on ACT (or SAT equivalent) required. Also private and departmental scholarships available.	FAFSA required	Mark "Requesting consideration under Public Law 93-7"	Leave blank	Fee can be waived by mailing fee waiver to Office of Admissions
University of Chicago	Tamara Felden, Director of the Office of International Affairs, tfelden@uchicago.edu	Some merit-based	Not Available		Leave Blank	Chicago Public School students can waive application fee; Ask admissions office for a fee waiver
University of Illinois at Chicago	The Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES) 312-996-3356 lares@uic.edu Also, UIC has a website to assist undocumented students http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/residency/	Some merit-based scholarships	Not available	Mark "Non-Citizen-Other" (Submit Illinois Residency Affidavit Form)	Leave blank	High School Students only - if the student qualifies for the free (not reduced) federal lunch program. Form must be verified by H.S. counselor
University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)	Gregg Perry, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions 217-333-0302 gperry@illinois.edu	Some merit-based scholarships	Not available	Mark "Non-citizen-Other"	Leave blank	Submit fee waiver form by mail
University of St. Francis	Eric Ruiz, Undergraduate Admission Counselor 815-740-5070 er Ruiz@stfrancis.edu	Merit scholarships have minimum requirement of 2.5/4.0 GPA and 20 on ACT. Between \$6,000 and full tuition	Work with on case-by-case basis	No citizenship question	Enter zeros	Free online application
Western Illinois University	Eric Campbell, Director of Admissions 309-298-1965 e-campbell@wiu.edu	Merit-based scholarships available	Need-based aid available	Mark non-citizen and asking for consideration under Illinois Public ACT 93-7 (until application is changed next year)	Use paper application and leave blank	Can waive fee

OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
Cornell College	Marie Schofer, Senior Assistant Director of Admission, International Student Recruitment Coordinator 319-895-4159 or 800-747-1112 mschofer@cornellcollege.edu	Undocumented students are eligible for the same scholarships and grants as international students, \$4,000 to full tuition	Complete International Students Application for Financial Aid through College Board	Mark "non-citizen"	Leave blank	Fee waived through Common Application before December 1. Fee waivers are also considered
Marquette University	Robert Blust, Dean of Admissions 414-288-7302	May compete for merit-based scholarships along with all other applicants.	Not available	Mark "Other"	Enter zeros. Let University know its wrong number	Online application free
Northern Michigan University	Gerri Daniels, Director of Admissions 800-682-9797 or 906-227-2650 gdaniels@nmu.edu	Not available	Not available	Answer "no" to both U.S. Citizen and U.S. Permanent Resident. Check the section that says "If undocumented check here ___". Undocumented status does not impact admissions decisions. Checking the box will help NMU to provide resource information to applicants who are undocumented.	Leave blank	Can waive fee
Saint Louis University	Harvey Werner 314 977 2268 hwerner2@slu.edu Can help undocumented students through the process of application.	\$3,000 to \$16,000 per academic year, primarily based on academic performance. Undocumented students also qualify for Presidential and Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships, requiring an additional application	Not available. Use FAFSA	Answer "What will your visa type or immigration status be while studying at Saint Louis University?" Most undocumented students select "Non-resident Alien"	Enter zeros or leave blank if selected non-citizen	Online application free
Seton Hall University	Whitney Vitale, Associate Director of Admissions whitney.vitale@shu.edu	Based on GPA (starting around 3.0) and SAT/ACT scores starting around 1650 SAT and 23 ACT. \$8,000 and up	Not available	Mark "I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident" and then under visa mark "Other"	Leave blank	Online application free until December 15. Can waive fee after with paper application

School	Admission Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	Social Security # on Application	Waive Application Fee
University of Wisconsin-Parkside	Joel Buschmann, Assistant Director of Admissions Ph: 262-595- 2496 Fax 262- 595-2008 joel. buschmann@ uwp.edu	Fill out scholarship application by February 1	Offer remissions (difference between in and out of state tuition) to undocumented students who have strong academic backgrounds		Leave blank	Can waive fee
Wartburg College	Edith Waldstein, VP for Enrollment Management 319-352-8335 edith.waldstein@ wartburg.edu	Merit-based scholarships available	Available. Complete CSS Profile	Mark non- citizen	Enter zeros or leave blank	No application fee

APPENDIX B COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Everyone needs a support network. Find out how to connect with other undocumented students who are facing the same struggles that you are. Below is a list of organizations divided by regions that provide support for immigrants. You can reach out to local organizations in Illinois online, over the phone, or in person.

Chicago - Loop Area

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

www.icirr.org
55 E. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 2075
Chicago, Illinois

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees and supporting their full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. In partnership with its member organizations, ICIRR educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and, informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

Contact: Stephen Smith at SSmith@icirr.org

Immigrant Youth Justice League IYJL

www.iyjl.org
Chicago, Illinois

Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) is a Chicago-based organization led by undocumented youth working towards full recognition of the rights and contributions of all immigrants through education, leadership development, policy advocacy, resource gathering, and mobilization.

Contact: info@iyjl.org or Cindy Agustin at cindy@iyjl.org

Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

www.ciogc.org
231 S. State Street, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois

The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago is the unifying force that brings together a wonderfully diverse American Muslim community in the greater Chicago region and across Illinois.

Contact: Razan Abu-Hashish at rhashish@ciogc.org or Ahlam Jbara at ajbara@ciogc.org

Chicago - Northside

Albany Park Neighborhood Council

www.apncorganizing.org
3334 W. Lawrence Avenue, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois

Albany Park Neighborhood Council is a membership-based community organization comprised of 27 member institutions including religious institutions, schools, service agencies, and universities from the communities of Albany Park, Irving Park, North Park, and West Ridge.

Contact: Pati Islas at (773) 583-1387

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center

www.chicagokrcc.org
6146 N. Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

KRCC's mission is to empower the Korean American community through education, social service, organizing/advocacy, and culture.

Contact: Carla Navoa, Youth Organizer at (773) 293-4050, carla@chicagokrcc.org

Chicago - Southside/Southwest

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC)

4477 S. Archer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is a community-based, nonprofit organization serving a working class neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. BPNC's mission is to create a safer community, improve the learning environment at public schools, preserve affordable housing, provide a voice for youth, protect immigrants' rights, promote gender equality, and fight all forms of violence.

Contact: Idalia Flores at (773) 523-7110

Enlace Chicago

www.enlacechicago.org/index.php
2756 S. Harding Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of the Little Village community by fostering a safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

Contact: Alheli Herrera, NCP organizer, at (773) 542-9233, ext. 21
AHerrera@EnlaceChicago.org

The Latino Organization of the Southwest

www.losillinois.org
6507 S. Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

LOS works to create an awareness of the social, political, economic, and cultural reality for Latinos that will enable them to develop critical thinking and knowledge, and play a more active role in the positive development of their communities.

Contact: Rosa Carrasco at (773) 925-0397

Southwest Organizing Project

www.swopchicago.org
2609 W. 63rd Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois

SWOP recognizes the diversity of our communities and works to build a broad-based organization of churches, mosques, schools and other institutions in southwest Chicago that will enable families to share common values, determine their own future and connect with each other to improve life in our neighborhoods.

Contact: Sarah Mesick at (773) 471-8208, sarah.swop@sbcglobal.net

United African Organization (UAO)

uniteafricans.org
3424 S. State Street, Suite 3C8-2
Chicago, Illinois

United African Organization is an advocacy coalition of African national associations dedicated to social justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

University of Chicago Coalition for Immigrant Rights (UCCIR)

Chicago, Illinois (Hyde Park)

UCCIR is a group of University of Chicago students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members dedicated to advocacy, action, and progressive dialogue in relation to the pressing contemporary issue of immigrant rights.

Contact: info.uccir@gmail.com

Chicagoland- West Suburbs

Nuestra Voz

1115 N. 23rd Ave.,
Melrose Park, IL 60160

Nuestra Voz is a youth-driven non-profit organization that promotes higher education among Latinos in the Western Suburbs. Their goal is to increase awareness of the importance of higher education, and to let the community know that attending college is achievable for everyone, regardless of immigration status. Their work fully supports the rights of undocumented students, believing that they, too, deserve to continue their education.

Contact: Arianna Salgado at ariannabsalgado@gmail.com, nuestra.voz.1@gmail.com, Or Janeth Vazquez j.vazquez1220@gmail.com

P.A.S.O. - Proyecto de Acción de los Suburbios del Oeste (West Suburban Action Project)

1115 N. 23rd Ave.
Melrose Park IL 60160
708-345-3632 Ext. 302 or 306

P.A.S.O. is a community-based organization that works to engage community members to act through their faith and values to address issues that affect them, their families, and neighbors with the mission to build stronger communities. The main areas P.A.S.O. works on are community organizing, leadership development, and civic participation as tools for members to develop the skills to be active, engaged participants in their communities and live dignified lives regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic or immigration status.

Contact: Yesenia Sanchez at yeseniasanchez.paso@gmail.com or Carla Argueta at carlaargueta.paso@gmail.com

Dupage County

Latin@ Youth Action League (L@YAL)

L@YAL seeks to empower Latino youth to engage in critical thinking and community building by raising awareness and participation in activism through direct action organizing campaigns, mobilization, and advocacy.

Contact: Fanny Martinez at (630) 632-2189, martinez.fanny89@gmail.com, and Cynthia Brito at (630) 808-5835, cbrito13@gmail.com

Illinois - Other

Illinois People's Action (IPA)

illinoispeoplesaction.org

510 E. Washington Street, Suite 309

Bloomington, Illinois

Illinois People's Action is an ecumenical, faith-based community organization. It encompasses 12 counties in central Illinois and includes the communities of Springfield, East Saint Louis, Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, Champaign-Urbana, Danville, Peoria, and rural counties of central Illinois. The mission of IPA is to help its members work collectively for justice in local communities and throughout Illinois' urban and rural communities.

Contact: Sonny Garcia at (309) 827-9627

La Colectiva at University of Illinois

uicolectiva.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/colectiva

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

La Colectiva is a student organization at the University of Illinois that was created to address the challenges faced by the immigrant communities of Champaign-Urbana. La Colectiva's mission is to advocate for social justice and change on behalf of all immigrants while simultaneously serving the community by fostering leadership and providing resources through grassroots initiatives.

Contact: lacolectivarso@gmail.com

La Voz Latina

www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org

412 Market Street

Rockford, Illinois

La Voz Latina maintains a strong focus on education through English and citizenship classes, programming for youth, health, and family education, and community awareness.

Contact: Kristina Reuber, Youth Programs Coordinator, at (815) 965-5784

Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project

Bolingbrook and southwest suburbs

SSIP is an immigrant rights organization based in Bolingbrook, Illinois that serves and empowers immigrant communities throughout the southwest suburbs.

Contact: Jose Vera at (630) 863-9130, jose-e-vera@hotmail.com



At an Immigrant Youth Justice League Rally in December 2010 in Chicago. Contact an organization near you and get involved!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Conclusion

We hope this guide offers you some valuable advice for your college search process. It has been carefully compiled with the help of community groups (like the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights), educators (like Educators for Fair Consideration, e4fc.org), and of course undocumented students and allies (like those from the Immigrant Youth Justice League and Nuestra Voz). We do not know all the answers, and this guide is a work-in-progress. If you still have questions after reading this, please reach out to us. Our contact info is in Appendix B. Good luck!

Special thanks to our authors, who received not a cent for their hard work: Razan Abu-Hashish, Cindy Agustin, Mia Clark, Lili Gecker, Alaa Mukahhal, Carla Navoa, Evelyn Osorio, Ileri Unzueta, and Reyna Wences.

Over 100 people - volunteers, counselors, community leaders, and undocumented youth - came together over three months to create this guide. We wish to thank some of our more prolific contributors and careful editors: Dylan Bellisle, Cynthia Brito, Maria Bucio, Dan Burke, Tanya Cabrera, Diana Colin, Rajelin Escondo, Pati Islas, Barbara Karpouzian, Maria Luna-Duarte, Lulu Martinez, Sarah Mesick, Irakere Picon, Fae Rabin, David Ramirez, Jonathan Rodrigues, Nathan Ryan, Arianna Salgado, Yanitza Salgado, Stephen Smith, Fred Tsao, Jose Vera, and Suzanne Zoheri.

Photos by Nathan Ryan of ICIRR and Evelyn Osorio of IYJL.
Cover Design and formatting by Alaa Mukahhal