

Financial Aid for New Jersey High School Students and Families

2026-2027 Academic Year

Presented by Jane O'Brien, Associate Director
at The College of New Jersey



The Mission

Since 1959, the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue their education beyond high school.

Agenda

- Sources and Types of Aid
- How to Apply
- How Need is Determined/Award Notifications
- Other Useful Information

Net Price Calculator

- All institutions must have a net price calculator posted on their websites.
- Students will be able to estimate the individual net price per institution.
- Based on full-time, first degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students.

Sources and Types of Aid

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Sources & Types of Aid

Sources of Aid

- Federal
 - State of New Jersey
 - The College/University
 - Private Scholarships
- Civic organizations (ex. local Rotary Club), parent's employer, high school awards

Types of Financial Aid

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans

Factors that may influence institutional aid, particularly merit-based aid

- Academics
- Athletic Ability
- SAT or ACT
- Geographic Diversity
- AP Courses
- Legacy (child of alumni)
- Activities
- Talent (extracurricular or academic)
- Gender/Ethnicity
- H.S. Attended
- Class Rank

Types of Aid - Federal

Grants

Federal Student Aid for Award Year 2025-26

- Pell \$7,395 (max award)
- SEOG \$4,000 (max award)
- TEACH \$3,772 (max award)

. * 2026-27 award amounts subject to change

2025-2026 Award Amounts

New Jersey State Grants 2025-26 Academic Year

(2026-2027 award amounts to be determined July 2026)

Award Type	Award Amounts
Full-Time TAG	\$1,280 - \$14,404
Part-Time TAG (community college only)	\$320-\$1,097
EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)	Up to \$3,050 includes college success support
NJ STARS (top 15.0% of high school class junior or senior year)	Tuition Only - community college only
NJ STARS II	Up to \$2,500 per year – any NJ 4-year college
Governor’s Urban Scholarship (for top 5.0% of high school junior year)	Up to \$1,000 \$500 Persistency Bonus
NJ-GIVS (women and minorities)	Up to \$2,000 - building trades only
Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)	Up to full tuition and approved fees --AGI between \$0 and \$65,000
Garden State Guarantee (GSG)	Up to full tuition and approved fees --AGI between \$0 and \$65,000
Summer TAG	Up to 75% of the Fall or Spring TAG amount
2026-2027 award amounts subject to change	

State Grants & Scholarship Requirements

Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

Student's application must be complete to receive **TAG (Tuition Aid Grant)** or any other state aid. Students must:

- File a FAFSA or New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application
- Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen or qualify as an NJ Dreamer
- Be a New Jersey resident and attend a New Jersey institution
- Be enrolled full-time* in an approved degree program
- Demonstrate financial need
- Meet all state deadlines for application and document submission
- At TCNJ, TAG awards ranged from \$3,922 - \$10,562 current year

*Part-Time TAG, NJSTARS, CCOG, and EOF awards are available for county college students enrolled in 6-11 credits per semester.

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships

EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)

- Award ranges from \$200 - \$3,050 annually depending on institution
- EOF is campus-based and award amounts vary
- Must demonstrate educational and economically disadvantaged background
- Complete all required EOF tasks with campus EOF Office

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships

Governor's Urban Scholarship

- Rank within the top 5.0% of their class at the end of junior year
- Attain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the junior year
- Reside in a designated municipality
- Qualify for a TAG award
- Annual award amount is \$1000

Asbury Park City	Burlington City	Bridgeton	Camden City	East Orange City	Elizabeth	Garfield	Gloucester City	Harrison	Hoboken
Irvington Township	Jersey City	Keansburg	Lakewood	Long Branch	Millville City	Neptune Township	Newark City	New Brunswick City	Orange
Passaic City	Paterson City	Pemberton Township	Perth Amboy	Phillipsburg	Plainfield City	Pleasantville	Roselle Borough	Salem City	Trenton City
Union City	Vineland City	West New York							

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships

NJ STARS

- NJ residents who rank in the top 15.0% of their class at either the end of junior or senior year of high school
- Award amount is the cost of tuition at the community college
- Students must attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the start of the third semester at the county college to remain eligible for NJ STARS

NJ STARS II

- Must have been NJ STARS eligible and have a family taxable income of less than \$250,000
- Must earn an associate degree and graduate with a 3.25 GPA or higher
- May receive up to \$2,500 annually for a TAG eligible public or private 4-year NJ college or university

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships

Governor's Industry Vocation Scholarship for Women & Minorities

NJ-GIVS

- Up to \$2,000 per year for the cost of enrollment at one of New Jersey's 18 county colleges, technical /vocational schools, some proprietary schools
- Benefits women and minorities pursuing certificate or degree programs in construction-related fields
- Must be NJ resident and have an AGI < \$60,000
- Complete separate application online. Found in the student's NJFAMS account, Apply for Scholarships
- Some of the programs eligible for the scholarship include
 - Construction Supervision
 - Solar Energy Technology
 - Architectural Engineering Technology

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships

Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)

Pays for all or part of the cost of Tuition and Approved fees at a NJ county college

- Must take a minimum of six credits per semester
- Must make satisfactory academic progress

AGI \$0 - \$65,000 for maximum award: Tuition & Approved Fees

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships

Garden State Guarantee

Pays for all or part of the cost of tuition and approved fees at a NJ state college

- New Jersey State Colleges and Universities
- Must make Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Available for students in their third and fourth year of enrollment at a public 4-year institution

AGI \$0 - \$65,000 for maximum award: Tuition & Approved Fees

Loans

- **Federal Direct Loan Program** (1st year dependent student)
 - Subsidized Loan \$3,500 need based
 - Unsubsidized Loan \$2,000 additional
- 2025 - 2026 - Federal Undergraduate Direct Loan interest rates are 6.39%, plus a 1.057% origination fee
- Annual loan amount increases as student progresses:
 - Sophomores \$4500 sub and \$2000 unsub
 - Juniors/Seniors \$5500 sub and \$2000 unsub

2026 – 2027 federal rates and fees are subject to change

Other Loan
Options to
Finance
Shortfall
Borrow up to cost
of attendance
less other aid

Academic Year 2025–2026		
	NJCLASS	Federal Parent PLUS
		Rate ³ /APR – Origination Fee 4.228%
10-Year ² OPTION 1	6.50% APR Immediate repayment of principal and interest while in school	8.94% / 9.960% APR
15-Year ² OPTION 2	7.99% APR Interest only payments while in school	8.94% / 9.868% APR
20-Year ² OPTION 3	8.75% APR Full deferment while enrolled in school at least half time	8.94% / 9.642% APR

** 2026 – 2027 interest rates will be determined in June 2026*

Shortfall options – Additional Private/ Alternative Loans

- There are many lenders offering private/alternative loans.
- Interest rates and repayment terms vary by lender
- Student must have a FAFSA on file before certification by school

Applications

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Applications to Access Aid

studentaid.gov
FAFSA

Available October 1, 2025



student.collegeboard.org/profile
CSS Profile

Available October 1, 2025



HESAA.org
NJ Dreamer

Available by October 1, 2025



Application: CSS Profile

- Approximately 400 colleges and organizations use the CSS profile to determine how they will award institutional (school-funded) aid
- Available 10/1 each year and collects more comprehensive income, asset, and household information than the FAFSA
- Uses prior-prior year income (2024 for 2026-2027)
- Mostly used by independent (private) colleges and universities

Register – Complete Application – Make payment – Submit

- ✓ No application fee for income under \$100,000
- ✓ All others, \$25 for first application and \$16 for each additional

CSS Profile

Website to apply for profile

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Website to apply for Noncustodial Profile:

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/profile-for-parents>

Participating CSS Institutions:

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>



Customer Support - 844-202-0524 | Live Chat Available

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- The 2026-2027 FAFSA is available by October 1, 2025
- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate the student's Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI determines eligibility for federal student aid
- File the FAFSA electronically via FAFSA on the Web at www.studentaid.gov
- FAFSA uses prior-prior year income information (2024 for award year 2026-27)
- All contributors on the application (student and parent(s)) must provide consent to the IRS to obtain Federal Tax Information (FTI) to populate income and tax information with actual prior-prior year tax information
 - All prior-prior year tax information (2024) is already filed, allowing immediate retrieval.

2026-2027 Federal Student Aid ID

Used to provide consent to obtain Federal Tax Information and digitally sign the FAFSA

Student and all Contributors must create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at www.studentaid.gov by clicking on “create account”

Student identifies who the Contributor(s) are and invites them via email to contribute to the FAFSA with an “**Invite Code**.” Each contributor must have their own separate FSA ID and password and will log in and provide the “**Invite Code**” to begin.

Contributors include: Biological Parent, Stepparent, and Adoptive Parent

Who Needs an FSA ID?

- If there are two parents who filed taxes jointly, only one parent
- If the parents are divorced/separated, the parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months
- If married or unmarried/living together but did not file taxes jointly, then each parent will need an FSA ID

2026-2027 Federal Student Aid ID for Undocumented Contributors

- Contributors who do not have an SSN will register with their name, date of birth, permanent address, email address and will have to verify identity through a knowledge-based verification process
- All contributors must be verified by individual email when creating the FSA ID
- Contributors who cannot verify identity will be able to complete the process of creating their FSA ID account and complete the FAFSA
- FSA will send a case number with information to submit documentation to verify identity via email

Federal Tax Information Consent

Contributors will be instructed to provide Federal Tax Information from their 2024 tax return to be used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid for Award Year 2026-27

Provide Consent or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

Summary

Your consent is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA[®] form. If you don't provide consent, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

→ Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026-27 form.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

→ FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Key Eligibility Requirements for FAFSA

- The student must have a valid Social Security Number
- Must be pursuing a degree, certificate, or other recognized postsecondary credential (matriculated)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- New Jersey students who are undocumented and meet the NJ Dreamer qualifications should complete the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application for state-funded financial aid

Key Components of the FAFSA

- **Student Contributor Section**

- ✓ Full Name and address
- ✓ Social Security Number or ITIN Number
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Mobile phone number (optional)
- ✓ Email address
- ✓ College/Career plans – 20 Colleges

- Student Consent and Assets

- ✓ FTI (Federal Tax Information)

- Student Status: Personal Circumstances

- ✓ Dependent or Independent Determination
- ✓ Student Special Circumstances
- ✓ Student Unusual Circumstances
- ✓ Social Security Number

- **Parent Contributor Section**

- ✓ Last Name
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Email address
- ✓ Family size – FTI
- ✓ Income and Assets
- ✓ Federal Means-tested benefits
 - ✓ Medicaid, SSI, SNAP,
 - ✓ Free or Reduced Lunch
 - ✓ TANF, WIC, WITC QHP

- Business and Farm will be considered as assets in the calculation of the SAI

- Child Support received is an asset

FAFSA Submission Summary

All Contributors will receive an individual
FAFSA Submission Summary

FAFSA[®]

FORM

2026-27

FAFSA Submission Summary

Student  Raya Tran	Application Received Aug. 11, 2025	Application Processed Nov. 15th, 2025	Data Release Number 1234	Viewing: Submission 1
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Please note, all notifications will be sent to the student email
address listed on the FAFSA.

New Jersey Dreamers

NJ Dreamers

If you qualify as an NJ Dreamer, you can apply for state aid to be used here in New Jersey. The eligibility details and the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application are a click away and HESAA remains available to help you apply!

Get Started Here



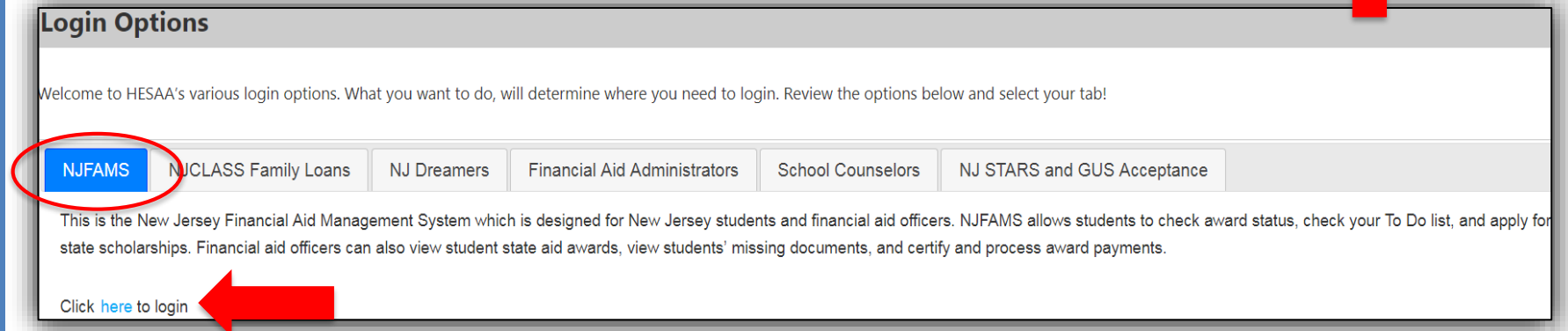
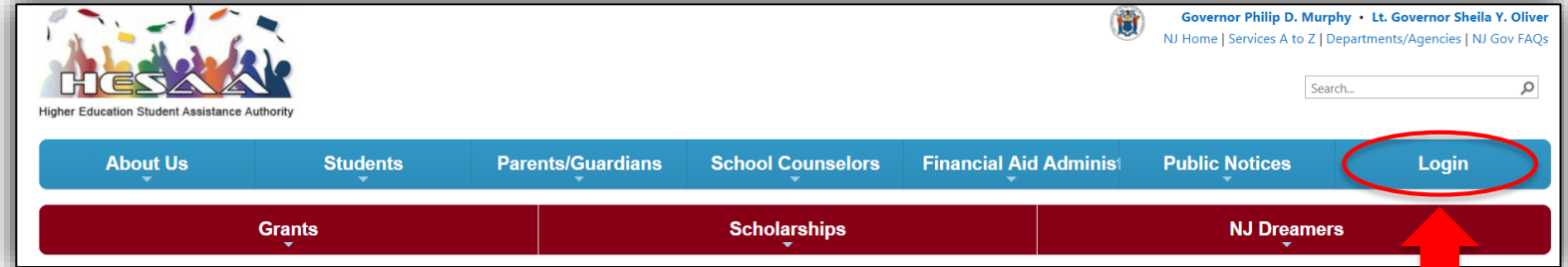
- Certain students with undocumented immigration status who attended at least 3 years and graduated from a NJ high school and meet other requirements may be eligible for State aid
- Application is part of NJFAMS, at <https://njfams.hesaa.org>
- Register for your account by creating a User ID and Password
- Login to complete the application by established deadlines
- Must meet all other need and/or merit-based eligibility criteria for State student aid

Create NJFAMS user id and password

Applicants are instructed to log into
"HESAA.org"
to create a user ID and password.

In 3-5 business days, students can their check
awards and eligibility status and complete any
outstanding items on their "To Do" list

New Jersey Financial Aid Management System - NJFAMS



- All students must go to "HESAA.org"
- Establish an NJFAMS Account by creating a User ID and Password
- Track the status of your State-funded student aid and respond to required tasks on the To-Do List

NJFAMS – Menu

ALL Students
must register

Welcome to NJFAMS!

Check your To Do List for additional information we need to process your grant or scholarship.



To Do List



Apply Online for New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid (Dreamer Students only)



View and Update Your School



Apply Online for Scholarships



Award and Eligibility Information



Notifications



Portal Announcements



View And Update Your Contact Information



Edit Your Profile

Federal & State Verification (if selected)

- School is responsible for verifying information for federal aid except for special circumstances
- HESAA is responsible for verifying information for State aid
- Schools may send request for information by mail or **e-mail**
- Always check your school financial aid portal and NJFAMS account for required tasks. Note: The college and HESAA do not share documentation
- Be sure to meet verification deadlines

How Need is Determined/ Award Notifications

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Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
- Food and housing
- Books and supplies, equipment, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses
- Medical Insurance
- Federal Loan Fees
- Study abroad costs
- Expenses for cooperative education program

What Is The Student Aid Index (SAI)?

- SAI is determined by a federal formula that calculates federal Pell grant eligibility and is used to determine further financial need using the information you supplied on the FAFSA
- SAI and Financial Need are guidelines used by schools to determine student aid offers

Financial Need for Smith Family

College	Community College	State College or University	Private College or University
COA	\$8,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
SAI	8,667	8,667	8,667
Unmet Financial Need	\$0	\$21,333	\$51,333

The College Financing Plan New Jersey Shopping Sheet

- Help families with net cost transparency
- Separates the Cost of Attendance listing the direct and indirect costs
- Grants and Scholarships (no repayment required, “free money”)
- Student Net Costs in center box
- College coordinated work-study employment
- Federal Student Loans
- If necessary, alternate loans

Aid Offer must replicate the Shopping Sheet



State of New Jersey
Financial Aid Shopping Sheet for Academic Year 2025-2026
Bachelor's Degree

Total Cost of Attendance
Direct Costs (what you will be billed)
Tuition: \$
Fees: \$
Food & Housing: \$
(if you live in campus housing)

Indirect Expenses
Books & Supplies: \$
Transportation: \$
Food & Housing: \$
(if you live off campus)
Loan Fees: \$
Dependent Care: \$
Total Direct Costs: \$

Total Indirect Expenses: \$
Total Cost of Attendance (Direct Costs and Indirect Expenses combined): \$

Grants and Scholarships to Pay for College
Merit-Based Scholarships
Scholarships from your school: \$
Scholarships from your state: \$
Other scholarships: \$
Need-Based Grant Aid
Federal Pell Grants: \$
Grants from your school: \$
State Grants: \$
Other forms of grant aid: \$
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits \$
Total Grants and Scholarships (aid that does not have to be paid back): \$ /yr

What Will You Pay for College
Direct Net Cost (Direct costs minus total grants and scholarships): \$ /yr
Total Net Cost (Total Cost of Attendance minus total grants and scholarships): \$ /yr

Options to Pay Net Costs
Work Options
Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional): \$ /yr
Work-Study = Estimated earnings from working.
Federal Student Loan Options* (Must be repaid)
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (For current interest rates click [here](#)): \$ /yr
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (For current interest rates click [here](#)): \$ /yr
* You must repay loans, plus interest and fees. Note that the amounts listed above are the maximum available to you – you are allowed and encouraged to borrow less than the maximum amount.
The acceptance or declaration of one or more loan offers shall not impact a student's eligibility for any other grants or scholarships detailed in the student's financial aid award letter.
Other Loan Options (Must be repaid)
Parent PLUS Federal Loan** (For current interest rates click [here](#)): \$ /yr
Private Loan** \$ /yr
Institutional Loan (% interest rate): \$ /yr
** These loans are loaned to parents or may require a credit worthy cosigner. In addition, such loans do not have the same borrower protections as Federal Direct Student loans, and include higher fees. You must repay loans, plus interest and fees. The amounts listed above are the maximum available to you – you are allowed and encouraged to borrow less than the maximum amount.

For more information & next steps:
Contact: Telephone:
 NJ Email:
Other info/Deadline(s):

Student Aid Index (SAI)
_____/yr
Federal formula-based index number that helps your school determine how much financial support you may need.
<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/university/article/sai>
Additional information within this section can be found at:
<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
Graduation Rate
Percentage of full-time students who graduate within 150% of normal time to degree 
This institution - %
Repayment Rate
Percentage of borrowers entering into repayment within 3 years of leaving school %
This institution - %
Median Borrowing
Students who borrow at this institution typically take out \$ in Federal loans for their undergraduate study. The Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately \$ per month. Your borrowing may be different.
Student Loan Default Rate
Percentage of borrowers entering repayment and defaulting on Federal loans.
National Average - 10.1%
This institution - %
Repaying your loans
To learn about loan repayment choices and work out your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to:
<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment>
NJ Grants and Scholarships
Visit www.njgrants.org and log into your NUFAMS account or call our customer care line at 609-584-4480

Other Information

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The Cycle of Financial Aid

October - March	Complete FAFSA application, college search, college application process, and CSS Profile
February - May	Schools send financial aid offers
June - July	Schools send Fall semester bills
August	Bills are due

Where Do I Go From Here?

- Obtain and review admission, financial aid materials and deadlines from each school to which you are applying
- Meet all application deadlines
 - CSS Profile if applicable
 - Complete the FAFSA and any other application materials required by the school or your state agency
 - NJ State deadlines for high school Class of 2026:
September 15, 2026 for Fall '26 and Spring '27 'semesters and
February 15, 2027 for Spring '27 ONLY awards

April 15, 2026 to renew your financial aid for Academic Year
2026-27

Note: After 1st year, students must renew ANNUALLY by April 15th, if the student received a State TAG award in the current year

Other Resources

- Outside Scholarships
- Campus-Administered Payment Plans
- Campus Employment (including school-sponsored “work-study” jobs)
- Specialized Campus Opportunities
 - ✓ Residential Advisors
 - ✓ Student Ambassadors
 - ✓ Student Tour Guides
 - ✓ Internships/Co-ops

Private Scholarship Search

- Institution/college websites
- Local library resources
- Local businesses, civic organizations and churches
 - ✓ Check with your High School guidance office
- Parent's employer(s)
- www.hesaa.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.mappingyourfuture.org



HESAA.org-

Apply for State
Aid-

Workshops
& Webinars

Live Webinars

**Apply for Federal and State Financial Aid
through the **Free Application for
Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)****



Planning to start college in Spring 2025?
Make sure to complete the **2024-2025 FAFSA** before February 15, 2025!
Click here to get started.

**Going to College in NJ?
Fill It Out to Find \$ Out!**

Need help with the 2025-2026 FAFSA?
Join us for free webinars to learn how to create your
StudentAid.gov Account and complete your application.

English Webinar Dates

Monday, 11/4 – 12pm	Tuesday, 12/10 – 12pm
Thursday, 11/14 – 6pm	Wednesday, 12/11 – 6pm
Wednesday, 11/20 – 6pm	Thursday, 12/19 – 6pm
Tuesday, 11/26 – 6pm	Friday, 12/20 – 12pm
Thursday, 12/5 – 6pm	

Spanish Webinar Dates

Monday, 11/4 – 6pm
Monday, 11/18 – 6pm
Tuesday, 12/3 – 6pm
Wednesday, 12/11 – 12pm

NJ Dreamer Schedule - <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJAlternativeApplication.aspx>

FAFSA Schedule - <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/FAFSA.aspx>

HESAA Services

- Customer Care Center

Outreach@hesaa.org

609-584-4480

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 – 8 and Friday: 8:30 – 5:00

- Online Resources

www.hesaa.org

www.njgrants.org

www.njclass.org

<https://njfams.hesaa.org>

www.hesaa.org/pages/financialaidhub

QUESTIONS?



Thank you