



CALIFORNIA  
**STUDENT AID**  
COMMISSION

**Better FAFSA, Better CADAA Bulletin**

**February 29, 2024**

**Welcome to the sixth edition of the California Student Aid Commission’s Better FAFSA, Better CA Dream Act Application Bulletin with information, updates, and resources for the upcoming 2024-25 financial aid cycle.**

**From our Executive Director, Marlene Garcia:**

As we are all aware, both the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) have opened, and many students and their contributors have successfully started the process to qualify for financial aid. Although students with California Non-SSN Contributors have continued to encounter issues with the FAFSA, we have been notified that the U.S. Department of Education is aware of them and working towards solutions. We endeavor to support all students through the challenges they face, and we affirm our belief that the changes to Better FAFSA will ultimately improve and streamline the process. Encourage students to persist and complete their 2024-25 applications and assure them that they will succeed in their pursuit of higher education.

**What’s the Latest?**

Federal Student Aid (FSA) announced on January 23, 2024, that they will update the tables used to protect an amount of a family’s income and assets used in the calculation of the Student Aid Index (SAI) by inflation-adjusted amounts. Ultimately, these adjustments will benefit students with lower SAIs which could lead to more financial aid for many students. As a result of the table updates, FSA will further delay the release of the Institutional Student Information Records (ISIR) to state agencies and colleges until the first half of March. The delay of ISIRs will have an impact on the Cal Grant award processing and overall financial aid award packaging from colleges and universities.

**Action Item:**

Check in with colleges and universities to determine if they have [extended the student intent to register deadline](#).

[\(UC and CSU extend deadline to accept admission, citing FAFSA delays - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)\)](#)

## **In the Spotlight:**

### **California Non-SSN Contributor**

Federal Student Aid (FSA) has identified several issues preventing Non-SSN Contributors from completing the 2024-25 application. In an effort to support families in California impacted by this issue, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) formed a taskforce to determine the most common issues and create a best practices program guide for both internal and external stakeholders. The guide will contain recommendations for completing the FAFSA and includes frequently asked questions. Check the Better FAFSA, BETTER CADAA web page next week to access the guide.

In addition, CSAC has created a new email list. The [California Non-SSN Contributor Follow Up email list](#) will provide subscribers with up-to-date information regarding the FAFSA process for parents and spouses without social security numbers. You can subscribe to the email list using the link above or by scanning here:



## **Upcoming CSAC Virtual Training:**

Cash for College Train the Trainer Webinars:

- March 8, 2024 – [Train the Trainer](#) (Zoom)
- March 22, 2024 – [Train the Trainer](#) (Zoom)
- April 26, 2024 – [Train the Trainer](#) (Zoom)

## **Cash for College**

CSAC is hosting several [Cash for College webinars](#) designed to answer common questions about applying for financial aid. Financial aid experts are available live to answer questions for students and families and we encourage you to promote these webinars. You can also look for in person [Cash for College events](#) hosted by our community partners. This information and additional resources can be found on the [Cash for College](#) website.

## **Key Application Dates to Keep in Mind**

The Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship deadline has been extended to **April 2, 2024**, due to the delayed application opening for the 2024-25 Academic Year. Keep in mind many campuses use the March 2 priority deadline to award state institutional aid.

Remember, you can find this information and other resources on our [Better FAFSA](#), [Better CADAA webpage](#).

Follow us on social media!

