

PRE-HEALTH DREAMERS

Financial Strategies 101 for Professional Programs



Undocumented students face barriers when funding their graduate and professional school education. This guide informs institutions and students about funding strategies that catalyze research, conversations, and goal-setting with decision-makers to establish financial support for this population.

UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

Understanding the number of undocumented students enrolled in your program, their financial needs, and the financial support already available to them is critical in building and strengthening efforts that support this population.

As your campus engages in this work, ask:

1. How many undocumented students are enrolled in the program?
 - a. How many are anticipated to enroll in the next year?
2. What is the cost of attendance per student?
3. How much financial support can the program commit to each student?
4. How much is a student responsible for?
5. What additional on and off-campus funding can students access?

GETTING STARTED

This document provides general guidance to identify funding sources for undocumented students. We highly encourage in-depth research based on your state, institution, program, and immigration status.



Graduate and
Professional
Programs



Undocumented
Students



Funding
Sources

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Financial Strategies Guide



EXPAND INSTITUTIONAL AID

Assess if an SSN or US citizenship is required by on-campus funding sources such as scholarships, grants, endowment funding, fellowships, or stipends. Most resources can be made accessible, especially if not federally funded. Assess if the SSN/US Citizenship requirement can be removed to make financial resources accessible and equitable for all students.

1. Through PHD's work, we found that:

- a. Federal funding sources are restricted to US Citizens and/or Legal Permanent Residents.
- b. Some institutional aid can be made accessible to undocumented students at the discretion of the college, program, and/or institution.

STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Collaborate with the Advancement Office:

1. Is there a grant manager that can lead fundraising efforts for this cause?
 - a. Connect with them;
 - b. Assess the financial landscape; and
 - c. Strategize and inquire about direct donations and/or identify private funders.
2. Inquire if private funding is unrestricted.
3. Establish an annual fundraising goal.
 - i. Ex. \$X,000 per year per student

EXPLORING AND ESTABLISHING FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Engage in conversation with local credit union(s)

1. Be prepared to present the program's financial landscape.
2. Ask on-campus decision makers to seek partnership with financial institutions
3. Examples of Institutional Loan Programs
 - a. Self-Help Credit Union: Dreamer Graduate Student Loan
 - b. Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

i. *"In years past, some loans were available through two partner organizations, the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), the infrastructure bank of the State of Illinois and Trinity Health in partnership with The Resurrection Project. In recent years, Stritch has made a commitment to a half-tuition scholarship for each admitted DACA recipient. Self-Help Credit Union makes available a loan program to these applicants as a supplemental financing option. Of course, applicants should consider all available financial options and select that which is best for them."*