



TRANSITION SERVICES: MONEY

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Description of Services:

Federal Student Aid, is an office of the US Department of Education, whose mission is to ensure that all eligible individuals benefit from federal financial assistance for education beyond high school. Some avenues for financial assistance are grants, loans and work-study programs. The definitions of these programs and process for applying are outlined below:

Federal student aid can be used to cover the costs of your college's tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. This aid can also be used to help pay for a computer and dependent child care expenses.

Who is eligible?

Students who need help paying for college.

How do I apply for federal student aid?

The process for determining federal student aid eligibility is separate from the process of applying for admission to college. The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) is the basic application that is used to apply for federal student aid.

Step 1

Applying for financial aid is FREE at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Anytime you need more information you can visit Federal Student Aid at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov or call us at **1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**. You can also talk with your high school counselor or the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend. Just remember that financial aid is provided to help students pay for college, so you don't need to pay to apply. You should never have to pay for help.

Step 2

Get a Federal Student Aid PIN. The PIN lets you electronically sign your online *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* form (FAFSA), make corrections to your application information, and more - all online. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for a PIN.

Step 3

Gather your documents. You will need income information like tax returns and W-2 forms. Having these documents will make applying simpler. For a full list of what you need go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you haven't filed your tax return when you're ready to complete the FAFSA, estimate your tax information and correct the information later.

*Created by the WorkAbility 1 Human Support Services Committee for informational purposes only.
Contact **EGUSD WorkAbility & Transition Services** for additional information.*

Step 4

Check the deadlines. Although you can complete the FAFSA between January 1 and June 30 of the following year to get federal student aid, deadlines for college or state aid are usually much earlier. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible on or after January 1 to meet the college and state aid deadlines.

Step 5

After you submit your FAFSA, Federal Student Aid will send you a [Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#). The SAR is a summary of your data and provides information on the status of your FAFSA, so it's important that you review your SAR, and, if necessary, submit changes or corrections.

Step 6

The colleges you list on your FAFSA receive your information once your application has been processed. Sometimes these colleges need to verify the information that you provided on your FAFSA, so they may ask you to submit tax returns or other documents. This process is called [verification](#). Be sure to submit the documentation to your college by the deadlines or your federal student aid will be delayed.

Step 7

Follow up with your colleges. Make sure the financial aid office at your college has all the information needed to determine your eligibility.

Step 8

Once you have your award information that shows the aid you are being offered, contact your college's financial aid office if you have any questions about your financial aid award.



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BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS

Description of Services:

A basic bank account provides a person a safe place to keep money for saving or paying bills.

Checking accounts are best for everyday use to pay bills and deposit checks. Monthly fees, minimum balance requirements and interest paid on the account vary by bank and type of account. There is usually an ATM/Debit card associated with these accounts.

Savings accounts are a safe place to put money aside for the future while receiving interest from the bank on the balance. These accounts are not designed for frequent withdrawals and do not usually have an ATM/Debit card connected to them.

Credit unions are similar to banks but offer better interest rates on loans and usually have higher interest rates on savings accounts.

All money in a bank or credit union is protected by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) up to \$250,000.

Who is eligible?

Individuals with money to deposit for savings or general financial transactions. Opening a bank account is one way to establish credit to obtain loans for purchasing a car or home.

Interested people should:

- Contact their local banks and credit unions to determine which bank offers the services that best meet their personal needs.
- Compare bank branch locations and hours of operation.

General Contact Information

<http://www.frbatlanta.org/pubs/guidefirstacct/>

Applicants should bring the following information to assist them in opening a checking or savings account at a bank or credit union:

- Photo identification
- Social Security card
- Initial deposit
(This amount will vary by bank)

Local Contact Info

www.findabetterbank.com

California Department of Consumer Affairs
Consumer Information Center
(800) 952-5210
TDD (800) 326-2297.

Department of Consumer Affairs
Consumer Information Division
1625 North Market Blvd., Suite N 112
Sacramento, CA 95834

Sacramento-area consumers may call
(916) 445-1254 or TDD 916-928-1227

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TRANSITION SERVICES: MONEY

CREDIT CARDS AND LOANS

Description of Services:

Credit cards are used to purchase items and pay for them at a later time. All credit cards have different terms and conditions for use. Before you apply for a credit card learn about the different features that impact the amount that you charge and will owe to the credit card issuer. These include interest rate, credit limit, late payment, application and other fees that you may be charged. These vary from credit card to credit card.

A **loan** is a financial transaction in which one party (the lender) agrees to lend another party (the borrower) a certain amount of money. There is the expectation of full repayment of the original amount of the loan with interest.

When applying for either a credit card or a loan there is an application form to complete and a credit check. A first time applicant may require a co-signer for either a credit card or a loan. A co-signer is another person that is willing to be responsible for the amount owed and agrees to make payments if the individual who applied for and receives the loan does not.

Who is eligible?

All persons over 18 years old can apply for a credit card. To qualify for a credit card you must be a full-time student or have a steady source of income. A good credit rating is very important and is earned when you pay your credit card or loan payments on time. When establishing credit, It may be easier to qualify for a card through a department store or a gas company rather than through a bank.

Interested people should:

- Complete a credit card application completely and honestly.
- Be wary of applying for too many credit cards, this may damage your credit rating.

General Contact Information

Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov
1-800-FTC-HELP

Applicants should have the following information to assist them in applying for a credit card or a loan:

- Photo identification
- Social Security card
- Information on other loans or credit cards that they have.

Local Contact Information

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SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST

Description of Services:

A special needs trust enables a person with a physical or mental disability, or a chronic or acquired illness, to have, held in trust for his or her benefit, an unlimited amount of assets. In a properly drafted special needs trust, those assets are not considered countable assets for purposes of qualification for certain governmental benefits. These benefits may include Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation, subsidized housing, and other benefits based upon need.

A special needs trust can be established at any time before the beneficiary's 65th birthday. It is very common to create a special needs trust early in a child's life as a long term means of protecting assets to benefit a disabled family member. As a part of estate planning, the costs of the creation of the trust are tax deductible.

Who is eligible?

Any family of a child or adult with a developmental disability, with the help of an attorney, can create a special needs trust.

Interested families should:

- Attend information meetings about special needs trusts in their community
- Contact an attorney trained in special needs trusts
- Consider who will serve as trustee

General Contact Information

<http://www.nsn.com/frequently.htm>

<http://www.hg.org/special-needs-trust.asp>

Applicants should bring the following information to assist them in beginning the special needs trust process:

- Information on current benefits
- Functioning level of beneficiary
- List of medications
- Special health concerns

Local Contact Information

Recommended: Local bar association serve as good starting point for identifying attorneys with expertise in SNTs.

www.americanbar.org

www.calbar.ca.gov

Local

Law Office: Brian D. Wyatt
3406 American River Drive Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95864
(916)273-9040

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TRANSITION SERVICES: MONEY WAGES

▪ Fair Labor Standards Act

The federal minimum wage provisions for covered, nonexempt employees are contained in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). For work performed on or after July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.

Many states also have minimum wage laws. Where an employee is subject to both the state and federal minimum wage laws, the employee is entitled to the higher of the two minimum wages. The minimum wage in the state of California is \$8.00 per hour. In the city and county of San Francisco the minimum wage is \$9.92 per hour.

Various minimum wage exceptions apply under specific circumstances to workers with disabilities, and youth under age 20 in their first 90 consecutive calendar days of employment.

▪ Workers with Disabilities

Individuals whose earning or productive capacity is impaired by a physical or mental disability, including those related to age or injury may be paid sub-minimum wages pursuant to a certificate issued by the Secretary of Labor. The sub-minimum wages are commensurate with wages paid to workers without disabilities. Employment at less than the minimum wage is authorized to prevent curtailment of opportunities for employment for workers with disabilities.

▪ Youth Minimum Wage Program

A minimum wage of not less than \$4.25 may be paid to employees under the age of 20 for their first 90 consecutive calendar days of employment with any employer as long as their work does not displace other workers. After 90 consecutive days of employment, or when the worker reaches age 20 (whichever comes first), the worker must receive at least the federal minimum wage.

Who is eligible?

All those employed are eligible for protection under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

General Contact Information

Live assistance is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time by calling, 1-866-4-USA-DOL (1-866-487-2365), TTY: 1-877-889-5627.

www.dol.gov/elaws/faq/esa/flsa/001.htm

Local Contact Information

Division of Labor Standards Enforcement
2031 Howe Ave. Ste 100
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916)263-1811

Fair Employment & Housing Commission
2218 Kausen Drive Ste 100
Elk Grove, CA 95758
(916) 478-7251

Department of Industrial Relations
San Francisco, CA
Minimum Wage Hotline (888) 275-9243
Worker Hotline (866) 924-9757

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