



Project Success: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

IMPORTANCE OF THE FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is essential in paying for college for most students.

Over 13 million students each year, representing over 75% of students across all sectors of higher education, use federal student aid to pay some or all of their expenses.¹

The FAFSA is the first step in applying for federal aid. Yet the FAFSA form can be daunting for students, especially first-generation students without prior experience of the process.

Trellis Company offers resources, tools, and support to help drive the FAFSA completion that facilitates enrollment on your campus.

¹NCES Fast Facts (Postsecondary Financial Aid); StudentAid.Gov (About Us)

FOR YOUR STAFF

Trellis can provide in-person and online FAFSA completion training and resources. We'll guide you through the application and highlight the areas where students and their families are most likely to have trouble or get confused. FAFSA training is also available for local high school counselors and community-based organizations.

FOR YOUR STUDENTS

Trellis Company can help you communicate the urgency of the FAFSA to your students and help them understand the FAFSA.

Communication examples



Text Messages

Trellis can send text messages to your new and returning students, urging them to complete the FAFSA. We can also send additional messages to those selected for verification.



Postcards

Postcards with FAFSA reminders are an effective way to connect with students and parents, who often see the mail in addition to the student. Trellis can create and send postcards on your behalf.



Phone Calls

For students who would benefit from an extra reminder, the Trellis team can call and urge students to complete the FAFSA for the upcoming term/year.



Flyers and envelope stuffers

Trellis can produce flyers for distribution around campus to remind students to complete the FAFSA and direct them to helpful resources. Envelope stuffers can be placed in regular mail going to students and distributed at student gatherings. All information can be produced in both English and Spanish.



Online support

Trellis has produced an easy-to-follow video in English and Spanish to help students complete the FAFSA. It's available at AIE.org, our college awareness web site: www.aie.org/video.



In-person FAFSA workshops

Trellis can conduct on-campus FAFSA completion workshops for your current and incoming students. Additionally, these workshops can be conducted at high schools and community centers in your area.



Virtual FAFSA events

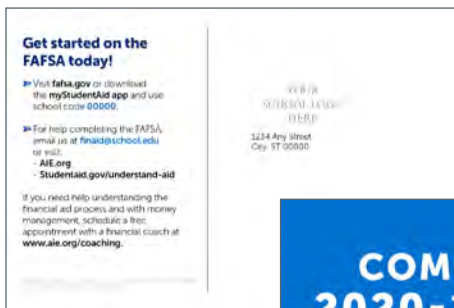
Trellis can conduct virtual FAFSA webinars for students and families to join from home. During the webinars, our team provides a FAFSA overview and answers students' questions in real-time.



Financial coaching

Trellis financial coaches can provide FAFSA assistance to currently enrolled students, admitted students, and parents of dependent students who wish to participate in the coaching session. FAFSA help is available for step-by-step guidance on completing the questions and submitting the application, understanding the different types of aid awarded, and satisfying verification requirements if applicable. The meeting will also cover developing a spending plan for the semester. Students can schedule an appointment at www.aie.org/coaching.

Sample postcard and flyer



Requested materials are customized with the school's logo, colors, and messaging.



www.trelliscompany.org

About Trellis Company

Trellis Company's Project Success team is dedicated to helping institutions design and create student success programs that measure and address student financial wellness issues on campus. We provide programs, research and analysis, and support to help institutions develop outcomes-based success programs and direct-to-student services that help students understand and navigate the growing complexities associated with education financing.

Trellis Company is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with the dual mission of helping student borrowers successfully repay their education loans and promoting access and success in higher education.