



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, Oregon 97302

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION FOR OREGON
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

TO: Secondary and postsecondary administrators, faculty, and staff including superintendents, presidents, principals, student services and financial aid professionals, counselors, and advisors

FROM: Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC); Juan Baez-Arévalo, Director, HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC)

DATE: January 7, 2025

We are writing to ensure that education partners, particularly those advising students about financial aid for college, have accurate information to advise undocumented students on the process for applying for state-administered grant and scholarship programs. **Undocumented students in Oregon—including students with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status—should not be dissuaded from applying for state grants that can help them realize their dreams of a college education.**

Undocumented students may be eligible for the following financial aid programs administered by the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC), as long as students meet all other program requirements: the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise, the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program Grant, and some OSAC-administered private scholarships. Information on eligibility and deadlines for these programs is available at www.OregonStudentAid.gov.

As part of the application process for these programs, undocumented students must complete the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). The ORSAA is an Oregon-developed application for students who are not eligible to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is a confidential application that is used solely by the HECC to qualify students for financial aid in Oregon. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes. Information that is shared with the HECC via the ORSAA is used only by the HECC and our partnering colleges, universities, and foundations for administering grants and scholarships.

Oregon is a sanctuary state, meaning that Oregon law does not permit state or local government agencies to participate directly or indirectly in immigration enforcement without a court order (ORS 180.805 and ORS 181A.820 to 181A.829). **Our agency does not disclose information concerning a person's citizenship or immigration status unless the disclosure is required by state or federal law, a court order, or a warrant or judicial subpoena authorized by a court.** Our agency also does not use any public facilities, property, moneys, equipment, technology or



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personnel for the purpose of investigating, detecting, apprehending, arresting, detaining or holding individuals for immigration enforcement.

For additional information on Oregon's Sanctuary Promise laws, please visit:

- <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit/> (English) or
- <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/promesa-de-santuario/> (Spanish)

The HECC will do everything within our authority and jurisdiction to protect the ongoing confidentiality of the ORSAA information.

If education partners have questions on these programs or the [ORSAA](#), they may contact OSAC at ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov or (541)687-7400.