Building Comprehensive College Support for Undocumented Students
Connecticut Students for a Dream is a statewide youth led network fighting for the rights of undocumented youth and their families!
Quick Facts: Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.

1. The number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. has not changed significantly in the last decade → 11.3 million
2. Most have been in the U.S for more than a decade → 2/3
3. Most are working → account for 1-in-20 workers
4. Not all are Latinx → Fastest growing population is immigrants from Asia

Quick Facts: Undocumented Immigrants in Connecticut

1. Estimated 10,000 undocumented students in CT schools and another 22,000 that have undocumented parents
2. It is estimated less than 65% of folks come from Latin America
3. Many are low-income, uninsured, and don’t have access the benefits citizens do
Oppression & Intersectionality

"Just like being queer has allowed me to say forget the norms, I want to be able to say forget the laws (immigration laws specifically) and start living."

- Irem

"Too often, 'bootstrap' narratives around education and financial success ignore the reality of structural racism that black immigrants face. Similar to African Americans, black immigrants have the highest unemployment rates of any foreign born population, are being profiled and detained in immigration facilities disproportionately and face tremendous amounts of discrimination in the workplace as well as wage theft."

- Opal Tometi

(EBONY Magazine, March 2016)
Understanding the College Process
Let’s Discuss…

● What are some of the biggest barriers that you see showing up for students in the college process?
● What are some of the most common questions that students bring up when navigating the post high school process as an undocumented student?
Know the Facts!

• Students DO NOT Need a SSN to apply to college
• Students WILL receive their diploma upon graduating
• FERPA (Federal Education Rights & Privacy Act) protects student information related to status
• THERE IS MONEY for college
Are colleges required to call immigration authorities on a student?
NO, FERPA Protects Students
Is the college application process significantly different for undocumented students?
Filling out the College Application

• For “immigration status”, check “none” “not qualified” or “other”
• A Social Security Number (SSN) is NOT required for admission
• If student does not have SSN, leave blank
• NEVER LIE on college applications
Common Application

Language

Citizenship

Select your citizenship status *
Other (Non-US)

List citizenship(s) *
Italy

Do you currently hold a valid U.S. Visa? *
No

If you intend to apply for a new or different U.S. Visa, please indicate that visa type
I do not intend to apply for a U.S. visa

Edit  Back  Continue
Should an undocumented student be classified as an international student at a CT State or Community College?
Classification of Students

- State schools in CT → domestic always
- Private Colleges → It depends, good to call
Can an undocumented student pay In-State Tuition at state colleges? If so, what are the requirements?
Connecticut’s In-State Tuition Law
(CT State Dream Act)

What: Allows undocumented students to pay the In-State Tuition rate at CT public colleges

How: CT Students for a Dream members and educators pushed legislators and the Governor to make this a reality

Requirements:
- Reside in CT
- Have attended a CT High School for 2 years
- Graduated from a CT high school or obtained a GED
- Acceptance into a CT public college or university
- Sign an affidavit

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
STATUS AFFIDAVIT

I, __________________________, hereby affirm that:

(a) I currently reside in the state of Connecticut;

(b) I have completed four years of high school level education in the state of Connecticut and hold a Connecticut high school diploma or its equivalent;

(c) I am registered as an entering student or am currently enrolled at [CCSU, ECSU, SCSU, CCSU]; and

(d) I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application to legalize my immigration status as soon as I become eligible to do so.

Signed: __________________________ Date: ________________
Some Advocacy Points on In-State Tuition

- Some time students will be charged out-of-state tuition first
  - Student should contact/go to admissions office to get affidavit to sign and get tuition price changed - if encounter problems call us!

- Students should NEVER be asked for immigration paperwork to prove their status
  - Office may be confused about status → call and explain situation, if they insist, call us

- Some schools require more paperwork than the affidavit in the slide above

- Some community colleges will offer students in-state tuition as long as they live in Connecticut without meeting other requirements the same as any other resident of the state would
## Financial Aid Options for Undocumented Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US Citizen</th>
<th>Legal Permanent Resident</th>
<th>Undocumented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Aid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In State Tuition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if meets requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Loans</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, with cosigner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Scholarships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, depends on scholarship</td>
<td>Yes, depends on scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need-Based Institutional Aid</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, starting Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connecticut’s Institutional Aid Law

What: Allows undocumented students to access institutional aid, money that comes directly from tuition dollars, at state colleges and universities starting in Spring 2020

How: CT Students for a Dream led a 6 YEAR LONG Campaign that we finally won in Spring of 2018 with bipartisan support

Requirements:
- Meet In-State Tuition Requirements
- Have entered the U.S. before 17th Birthday
- Be under the age of 31 as of Spring 2020
Institutional Aid - General Application Information

- The form is very similar to the FAFSA
- Uconn application is online. CSCU application is paper form

Students will need:
- Parent’s income and tax information
- Student tax information (if they work and file taxes)
- Other information related to family income & assets
When & How to Apply

UCONN

- Form and Affidavit are online and available on the UCONN Website. Everything is filled out online
- Same timeline as FAFSA → Open October 1st and Due March 1st every year for the next academic year
- Website: https://financialaid.uconn.edu/undocumented_students/

CSU System

- Affidavit & Form are a paper application
- Application is out now but advise students not to hand in until early fall
- Each school has different folks working on it so if have questions best to call the financial office at the school the student will be attending
Undocumented Students

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME AT UCONN

The University of Connecticut encourages all academically accomplished students who are ready to take the next step in reaching their higher educational goals to apply for admission, regardless of citizenship status. This includes students who may just be learning their immigration status for the first time during the college admissions process. Admission to the University is based on a holistic approach which includes grade point average, class rank, SAT or ACT score, required essay, extracurricular activities, and optional letters of recommendation.

NEW! Institutional Need-Based Financial Aid for Undocumented Students

On April 25, 2018, the Connecticut Legislature passed a state statute allowing undocumented students to apply for institutional aid. These students must meet certain age, residency, and criminal history requirements along with providing an affidavit with the institution they are attending about their intent to legalize their immigration status when they are eligible to do so. This does not apply to non-immigrant visa holders. International students may visit https://lsss.uconn.edu/financial-resources/ for funding opportunities.

The deadline to submit the Institutional Aid application was March 1, 2019. The Institutional Aid Application is available here. Since the on-time deadline has passed, you must complete the On-Time Financial Aid Application Deadline Appeal, in addition to your Institutional Aid Application.
On April 27, 2018, the Connecticut General Assembly, with the support of Governor Malloy, enacted a new state law that allows undocumented students to apply for institutional financial aid. These students must meet certain age, residency, and criminal history requirements along with an affidavit with the institution they are attending about their intent to legalize their immigration status when they are eligible to do so. This does not apply to non-immigrant visa holders.

Undocumented veterans may be eligible for institutional financial aid beginning with the Fall 2018 semester. To be eligible, veteran students must meet the following criteria:

- Honorably discharged veteran of the US Armed Forces;
- Thirty years of age or younger on June 15, 2013;
2019-2020 Aid Application for CT Undocumented Students (AACTUS)

This application is exclusively for a specific group of undocumented students who cannot apply for federal student aid.

Information on this application will determine eligibility for institutional financial aid for the 2019-2020 academic year for students who:

- Cannot apply for federal student financial aid due to immigration status, -AND-
- Meet conditions specified in a signed affidavit in Part One of this application.

Students meeting the above criteria must submit the following to be considered for institutional funding:

- Complete and sign Aid Application for CT Undocumented Students (AACTUS)
- 2017 income and tax documentation as described in the AACTUS
- For veterans seeking Fall 2019 aid: DD-214 – Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

Student Identification & Contact Information:

Student ID: __________
Last Name: __________
First Name: __________
M.I.: __________
Street Address: __________
City: __________
State: __________
Zip Code: __________
Phone: __________
Email: __________
Date of Birth: __________
Social Security Number, A4, or N/A (not applicable): __________

Student Citizenship:

☐ I am a U.S. Citizen/ U.S. National: STOP! Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) instead!
☐ I am an eligible noncitizen (e.g., Permanent Resident): STOP! Complete the FAFSA instead!
☐ I am not a citizen nor a noncitizen eligible for federal financial aid: Continue your application.

Part One: Affidavit of Eligibility for CT Undocumented Students

All student applicants must complete this section, sign, and have this page notarized. There are the conditions under which students may apply for institutional aid using the AACTUS for the 2019-2020 school year.

Check the statements below if you are a veteran student applying for Fall 2019 aid. (Only honorably-discharged veterans may complete an AACTUS for the fall 2019 term)

☐ I am a U.S. Citizen.
☐ I am a CT resident.
☐ I am an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States and have attached my DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to prove so.
☐ I was fifteen years of age or younger when I arrived in the United States and have continuously resided in the U.S. since such arrival.
☐ I was thirty years of age or younger on June 15, 2012 (birthdate 6/15/1982 or later).

Check the statements below if you are a student applying for Spring 2020 aid.

☐ I was thirty years of age or younger when I arrived in the United States and have continuously resided in the U.S. since such arrival.
☐ I have not been convicted of a felony in any state in the U.S.
☐ I am currently without legal immigration status but have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file such application as soon as I am eligible.

All student applicants must sign below and have this witnessed by a Notary Public.

By signing and dating below, I certify that all the above checked statements are accurate:

Student’s Signature
Subscribed and sworn before me
on this __________ day of __________, __________.

Student’s Printed Name
Notary Public/Commissioner of the Superior Court
My Commission Expires __________.
School Options in Connecticut

- **Community Colleges**
  - Low Cost
  - ESL Programs (if needed)
  - Foundations with many scholarships open to undocumented students
  - In-State Tuition flexibility
  - Institutional Aid

- **UCONN**
  - Presidential scholarship open (must be 1st or 2nd in class)
  - Institutional Aid

- **CSU Schools**
  - Some merit based aid is available
  - Institutional Aid

- **Private Colleges**
  - Some give out need-based aid:
    - Yale
    - Wesleyan
    - Trinity
    - Connecticut College
    - Fairfield University
  - Others have merit based scholarship programs that may be helpful
  - Are lists of private colleges around the country that meet full need
FAFSA & CSS Profile

● DACA Students can fill out a FAFSA online
  ○ They will not get any aid

● The ONLY REASON to fill out a FAFSA is if a scholarship or school requests it

● CSS Profile is open to undocumented students

● Citizen children with undocumented parents can fill out the FAFSA
  ○ Put All 0’s for parent & print out signature page
Private Scholarships

• Lists Specifically for Undocumented Students
  - CT Students for a Dream list
  - Dreamers Roadmap to College App
  - Immigrants Rising - https://immigrantsrising.org/
  - MALDEF scholarship list - www.maldef.org
  - Scholarships A-Z - www.scholarshipsaz.org

• DREAM.US Scholarship at ECSU
• New Haven & Hartford Promise

• Other Search Tools
  – Local scholarships - many open to undocumented students
  – College Board & Other Scholarship Search Websites
What are some of the strategies that you have used to guide undocumented students through the process? What are some resources you have used?
Resource Review
Remember, Most Undocumented Students are also First Generation College Students
Remember, college is not a goal for all undocumented students.
Other Options/Resources:

1.) Working for yourself
2.) ESL Classes at Adult Ed & other locations
3.) Community programs/resources
4.) Certificate Programs
Creating Comprehensive College Support & Destigmatizing Status
Working with an Undocumented Student

- Encourage students to explore all the options available to them (private, state, & community college)
- Connect students to other students with similar experiences and students that are already in college
- Be an advocate - increase access & give students the tools to be advocates as well
Working with an Undocumented Student

- Do not make false promises, be honest and real with students in regards to what the options are

- Remember many students do not have a pathway to citizenship so we should not focus on that being a solution

- Be aware of your own biases and the ways they may impact how you guide a student
What can we do to destigmatize status in the college process within our schools?
Be Open about Your Support

- Have “I Support Undocumented Students” Posters up in your office and in school counseling office overall.
- Use inclusive language and mention that you have resources for undocumented students out loud and often (when you go to do classroom presentations, etc…).
Ensure Information is Readily Available

Include information for undocumented students wherever there is college information for all students:

- Junior & Senior College Meetings
- School Counseling Office, Main Office & Family Resource Office
- College Day or College Week
- Bulletin boards for scholarships and other prominent locations
Include Specific Information for Students

You do not need to hold specific events or nights for undocumented students. You can include specific information within events that are already happening:

- **College Parent/Financial Aid Nights** - Slides about scholarships, resources available for immigrant students, how to fill out different paperwork (ensure parent events are also accessible language wise, childcare, etc...)

- **College Trips** - Ask questions or have tour guide mention specific information for undocumented students

- **FAFSA/Financial Aid Workshops** - Include information about institutional aid and how undocumented students can search for scholarships
Ensure Resources are Easy to Use

A lot of times school counseling offices and schools have great resources. There are ways that they can be made even more accessible to undocumented students:

● Have separate link on website or in naviance that contains scholarships specifically for undocumented students

● On naviance or other local scholarship lists, indicate which scholarships require citizenship or permanent residency and which do not
Bring Students Together

We are creating UndocuScholar Programs in the high schools we work in which can be replicated by educators on a smaller scale:

● Bring students together for group meetings to meet each other and share experiences

● Have group meetings focus on specific aspects of the college process for undocumented students

● Invite C4D to talk with the group of students & share experiences
Be an Advocate & Support Students in Doing the Same

- Call Scholarships & Foundations that are not giving scholarships to students and encourage them to change their policies & practices.

- Call schools and ensure students are getting all of the money and resources that they deserve (and support your students in making calls and asking important questions).

- Work together with C4D to monitor issues and reach out to connect and provide joint advocacy where needed.
Prepare Students to Transition Successfully

- Review what resources are available on campus and encourage students to connect with them.
- Ensure students understand the different costs of college and discuss where they will be getting money from.
- Practice with students how to talk about their status with those that may be able to help get them resources.
How Can I Collaborate with CT Students for a Dream?

1.) Working with students
   a.) Presentations to classes
   b.) 1:1 Meetings
   c.) Small Group Meetings

2.) Working with educators
   a.) Trainings
   b.) Planning sessions

3.) Working with schools/districts
   a.) Parent/ Community Events
   b.) Policies & Procedures
What are some practices that you can institutionalize at your school?
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!!

@CT4aDream

CT Students for A Dream

@CT4aDREAM
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THANK YOU!