The Casa community is excited to announce that after long and tireless efforts in the fight for Higher Education for All, a major milestone has been realized...

Beginning September 2019, young people regardless of their immigration status will be able to go to community college for **free** (if their families meet the income requirements). If someone qualifies for the Maryland Dream Act, they also qualify for various Maryland grants and scholarships. However, they must submit the alternate FAFSA by **MARCH 1**. Below you will find information about this form:

**The Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) is here!**

*What is the MSFAA?*

The MSFAA is a Maryland financial aid form for MD resident students who are ineligible for federal aid (i.e. undocumented students). **More information can be found here:** [https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/MSFAA-FAQS.aspx](https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/MSFAA-FAQS.aspx)

*What I need to fill this out:*

- Create an MDCAPS account: [https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us/MDCAPS/StudentRegisterForLogin.aspx](https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us/MDCAPS/StudentRegisterForLogin.aspx)
  - Need email account
- If you are a male between 18-25, you need to register with the Selective Service System and be able to provide proof of this
  - Forms available at any U.S. Post Office
- Tax information
  - Are you a dependent or independent filer?
  - Need tax forms for the year 2017

*State Scholarships to Apply for that Require MSFAA to be submitted by MARCH 1:*

- Guaranteed Access Grant: [https://mhec.state.md.us/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_gagrant.aspx](https://mhec.state.md.us/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_gagrant.aspx)
  - Under age 22 at time of graduating high school
  - Unweighted cumulative 2.5 GPA
  - Must enroll at a two or four year institution as full time (12 credits/semester)
  - All required documents DUE **APRIL 1**
- Educational Assistance Grant: [https://mhec.state.md.us/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_ea.aspx](https://mhec.state.md.us/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_ea.aspx)
  - Must enroll at a two or four year institution as full time (12 credits/semester)
  - Must demonstrate financial need
  - DUE **MARCH 1**
- Promise Scholarship: [https://mhec.state.md.us/Pages/Community-College-Promise-Scholarship.aspx](https://mhec.state.md.us/Pages/Community-College-Promise-Scholarship.aspx)
  - Unweighted cumulative 2.3 GPA
  - Apply within 2 years of graduating high school or earning GED
  - Must enroll at a two or four year institution as full time (12 credits/semester)
  - **Note:** The application will be available for the 2019-2020 academic year after April 1, 2019

*Two Examples of Local Colleges to Apply to:*

- Prince George’s Community College
  - [https://www.pgcc.edu/Admissions_and_Registration/Applying_to_PGCC/First_Time_College.aspx](https://www.pgcc.edu/Admissions_and_Registration/Applying_to_PGCC/First_Time_College.aspx)
  - $25 Application Fee
  - Bilingual persons to contact for questions with the application process:
    - Jessenia Marston: marstojl@pgc.edu; 301-546-0861
    - Samantha Howard: garciassx@pgc.edu; 301-546-0862
- Montgomery College
  - [https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/application.html](https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/application.html)
  - $25 Application Fee
  - General admissions number: 240-567-1501

For further questions contact Jessica Cruz: je.cruz@casa.org; 240-246-5233

The fight for Higher Education for All is not yet over! There are still many students who are ineligible to take advantage of the aforementioned opportunities and pursue their educational dreams. Join the movement! Unite your voice to the thousands of others to ensure that one day soon every student hoping to pursue higher education, can do so.

To learn more contact Trent Lierman: flierman@wearecasa.org; 443-897-0079