



# Real students tell real stories about getting money for college

## Are their stories like yours?

- Jared had a goal and his mom had a dream that he finish college.
- Charlie knew that she wanted to go to college, but she'd have to find a way to pay for it herself.
- Jennifer knew college was a way out and a path to better career choices.
- Ben had big dreams for his life, but needed a bridge to that future.

Jared, Charlie, Jennifer and Ben—the real-life “stars” of Federal Student Aid’s new public service campaign—didn’t know how to get the money they needed for college. Then they heard about Federal Student Aid.

## Federal Student Aid provides over \$80 billion each year to help students like you go to college and achieve your dreams.

**What is Federal Student Aid?** An office of the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid awards federal financial aid—grants, work-study programs and low-interest loans—to help students like you further your education beyond high school—whether at a two-year technical or trade school or a four-year college.

**Who is eligible to apply for financial aid?** U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens can apply. You should apply regardless of your grades or your family’s financial situation because a variety of factors determine eligibility. The best way to find out what aid you are eligible to receive is to apply.

**How do I apply for federal financial aid?** Start by filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*—commonly called the FAFSA. This is the qualifying form for all federal and government-guaranteed aid programs, as well as for many state, regional and institutional student aid programs. And remember, it’s **FREE** to apply.

**When should I apply?** You should complete the FAFSA as early as possible after January 1st of each year that you will attend college. This will help to ensure that you meet the deadlines for all aid programs for which you are eligible. Many state and school aid programs have early deadlines. Contact your school to learn its deadline.

If you’re not ready to apply for aid just yet, you can use our online tool, FAFSA4caster, to estimate how much financial aid you may be eligible to receive when you do apply.

**Where can I find and complete the FAFSA?** The quickest and easiest way to complete the FAFSA is online at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov). If you don’t have Internet access, you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) to request a FAFSA.

