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General Information:
<http://www.CollegeGoalSunday.org>

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Indiana students to get free FAFSA filing help at College Goal Sunday

INDIANAPOLIS – Financial aid professionals from across Indiana will be at 39 sites helping collegebound students and their families with the most important form for financial aid during College Goal Sunday. The event is set for 2 PM (local time), February 23rd, 2025.

This free program assists Indiana students with filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is required for students to be considered for federal and state grants, many scholarships, and even federal student loans at most colleges, universities, and vocational/technical schools nationwide. Filing must occur by the State of Indiana priority deadline of April 15th to guarantee state aid for those that qualify. Many families perceive the form to be too complicated and time consuming to complete and often leads to students missing out on financial aid they would receive. This is one of many reasons College Goal Sunday is so important. In less than one afternoon during the event, students and their families get free help from the expert volunteers and file the form.

"Indiana was a nationwide leader last year in maintaining the FAFSA-filing rate from 2023 to 2024. That success is due in large part to the Commission's partnerships with INvestEd and other community partners, philanthropy investment, and support from local leaders," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "Though this is an encouraging statistic for Indiana, we must continue to aim higher. The FAFSA is a gateway to unlock potential career options, improved social and financial outcomes for individuals, strengthening Indiana's talent pipeline, and enhancing our communities as a whole. We encourage all Hoosier seniors to file as soon as possible."

Now in its 36th year, College Goal Sunday has helped more than 98,000 Indiana students and families complete the FAFSA properly and on time. College Goal Sunday is a charitable program of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA).

College Goal Sunday Important in a Year of Change

"Again this year there will only be one College Goal Sunday instead of the usual two. Because of the two month delay in the full launch of the FAFSA this academic year, the event February 23rd takes on additional importance. Many families are anxious about getting the form filed, and meeting various deadlines" said Bill Wozniak, co-chair of College Goal Sunday. "We hope all Hoosiers take advantage of College Goal Sunday, file the FAFSA, and get one step closer to fulfilling their educational goals."

“Students who don’t complete their financial aid paperwork properly and on time are often disappointed when they find out how much financial aid they lost,” said Wozniak. “This is why the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association continues to provide College Goal Sunday. If our assistance gives students a better chance at education beyond high school and less debt, we’re fulfilling our mission.”

What students should bring

Students should attend College Goal Sunday with their parent(s) or guardian(s), and parent(s) should bring completed 2023 IRS 1040 tax returns, W-2 Forms and other 2023 income and benefits information. Students who worked should also bring their income information. Students 24 years of age or older may attend alone and bring their completed 2023 IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 Form or other 2023 income and benefits information. Students and parent(s) are encouraged to apply for their U.S. Department of Education FSA IDs at studentaid.gov before coming to the event.

Volunteers will be available to assist with the online form and answer all families’ individual questions during College Goal Sunday. All sites offer FAFSA online capabilities and many have Spanish interpreters available. A complete list of sites is available at CollegeGoalSunday.org.

Attendees may win a scholarship from College Goal Sunday

Students may also win one of five \$1,000 scholarships. Students who attend College Goal Sunday and submit a completed evaluation form will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship. The winners will be notified and scholarships will be sent directly to the higher education institution selected by the winning students.

21st Century Scholars benefit

21st Century Scholars are income-eligible students who sign a contract in the seventh or eighth grade promising they will graduate from high school, meet grade point requirements, fulfill a pledge of good citizenship, and apply for college financial aid. Upon high school completion, Scholars who have fulfilled the commitment and demonstrate financial need receive state funds to help cover their college tuition and fees for up to eight semesters at eligible Indiana public colleges or an equal dollar amount at eligible Indiana private colleges. To fulfill their pledge scholars must submit a completed FAFSA form on time.

Program is a national model

College Goal Sunday originated right here in Indiana and is now a national model. Following Indiana’s example, College Goal Sunday events organized by more than 34 states have opened doors to higher education for hundreds of thousands of students all over the country.

For more information about College Goal Sunday visit CollegeGoalSunday.org.

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College Goal Sunday is a cooperative, charitable effort of the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA). It is provided in cooperation with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, and is funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.