

## Post-Secondary Federal Financial Aid for Qualified Aliens Last Updated 8/09

### Who is eligible?

- Financial Aid exists for qualified aliens. Qualified aliens include, but are not limited to, lawful permanent residents (and conditional permanent residents), T visa holders, VAWA self-petitioners and derivatives with prima facie notice.<sup>1</sup>
- To apply, qualified aliens must also meet the existing financial requirements for all applicants.

### How to Apply

- Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Check the box 'eligible non-citizen.' (Please note that the worksheet does not explicitly include VAWA self-petitioners and derivatives with prima facie notice or approved applications in their list of eligible non-citizens, even though such applicants are eligible non-citizens.)
- The form requires either your A number or social security number.<sup>2</sup>
- If you are a battered immigrant VAWA survivor, send a copy of the FAFSA form to Carney McCullough at [carney.mccullough@ed.gov](mailto:carney.mccullough@ed.gov) and Dan Klock at [dan.klock@ed.gov](mailto:dan.klock@ed.gov), explaining that you are a battered immigrant VAWA survivor applying for post-secondary federal financial aid. Please cc our lead attorney working with the Dept of Education, Soraya Fata at [sfata@legalmomentum.org](mailto:sfata@legalmomentum.org).

### U Visa Holders

- At this point, there is no law or guidance on whether or not U visa holders are covered. For a U visa holder, submit any documentation showing your status and any documentation indicating your intent to stay permanently. Also, contact our lead staff attorney on post-secondary financial aid, Soraya Fata at [sfata@legalmomentum.org](mailto:sfata@legalmomentum.org), who is tracking efforts of U visa applicants for financial aid.

### Further Questions

- If you are having trouble applying, please have your attorney or financial aid officer contact our lead attorney working with the Department of Education, Soraya Fata at [sfata@legalmomentum.org](mailto:sfata@legalmomentum.org). If you need a referral for an attorney, please contact the Immigrant Women Program at 202-326-0040 or [iwp@legalmomentum.org](mailto:iwp@legalmomentum.org).

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<sup>1</sup> PRWORA § 431(b), 8 U.S.C. § 1641(b). The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) expanded the definition of 'qualified alien' to include VAWA self-petitioners and derivatives. IIRAIRA § 501, *amending* PRWORA by adding § 431(c). Qualified aliens also include refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation or cancellation of removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Amerasians, and persons paroled into the United States for a year or more.

<sup>2</sup> An "A number" is the Alien Registration number generated by USCIS to keep track of your immigration file.