

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INCREASE IN FEDERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR YOUR COLLEGE ACCESS

Whether you are changing careers and working toward a higher education or trying to afford sending your child to college

Don't miss out, file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid NOW

(Long Island, NY) – The downturn of the economy has forced many to rethink their next steps in their careers and question how they can maintain employment. It has forced others to reconsider the feasibility of sending their child to college. Billions of dollars are available to help students pay for school through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, the Department of Education estimates that nearly eight million college students each year fail to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or fail to apply for it on time, leaving more than 2.3 million students without much-needed resources to cover the increasing cost of college.

Although the next school year may seem a long way off, the time to start thinking about how to pay for it is now—before grant, loan and scholarship money runs out. In response to President Obama's historic investment to make college more affordable and accessible and to help more students succeed, the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island has launched a college access initiative to serve as a benchmark for integrating college access services at community-based FREE tax sites. Through this pilot initiative, the Council will offer **FREE ASSISTANCE** with **FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS** to individuals and families at tax sites, schools, community based organizations, and events across Long Island. The Health & Welfare Council of Long Island's Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition of Long Island connects students to available financial aid through a two step process:

Step 1) FREE TAX PREPARATION

With most of the information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) coming from the tax return, financial aid starts with free tax preparation for aspiring students.

Step 2) Help filling out FAFSA

With the tax return in hand, we walk students through the FAFSA and provide them with information on grants, loans and scholarships.

Contact the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island for more information or assistance in filling out your FAFSA:

For SUFFOLK COUNTY contact:

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