

# NEWS TO KNOW for Counselors

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



NOVEMBER 2016

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**CGS!Florida Fall 2016** dates and locations for FREE assistance with *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) completion are listed below. For a complete listing by county with sites, dates, times and room locations please visit this link: [CGS!FL-LOCATIONS](#)

November 1	Baker County High School
November 2	Miami Dade College
November 6	Florida State College at Jacksonville — Nassau Center
November 6	Florida State College at Jacksonville
November 6	Santa Fe College
November 6	St. Johns River State College — Orange Park
November 13	St. Johns River State College — Palatka
November 17	College of Central Florida
November 19	University of West Florida
Each Wednesday (through 11/30)	Lyman High School
TBA	Tallahassee Community College



# Important Announcements



## FAFSA Information

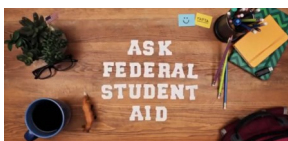
A recorded webinar is now available to assist you with important changes to the FAFSA. While the last part of the webinar is geared to trainers for the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) program, you will find the first segment (slides 7-46) enlightening as FAFSA changes are presented by Jeff Baker, Director, Policy Liaison and Implementation Staff of the U.S. Department of Education. To view the recorded webinar, please visit: <https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/training/nt4cm/resources.jsp>.

Mapping Your Future also offers webinars on various FAFSA topics:

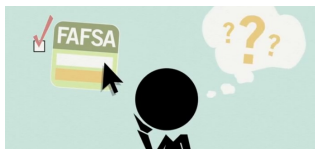
- [Recording](#)
- [Handout](#)
- [Question and Answer document](#)

## Need additional FAFSA resources for your school's website?

Check out these great video clips from the Federal Student Aid office:



[How to Create an FSA ID](#)



[After the FAFSA](#)

## State Grants and Scholarships Update

Encourage students to seek service hours during the upcoming holiday season. There will be many opportunities to volunteer at shelters, nursing homes, etc. Additional activities may include serving meals, spending time with residents and gathering much needed supplies for organizations that provide assistance during the holidays.

The following service hours are set by the Florida Legislature for each Bright Futures award:

Academic Scholars:	100 hours
Medallion Scholars:	75 hours
Gold Seal Scholars:	30 hours



## Resources for Homeless Youth

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, many of us will be thankful for our homes and family. For many high school students, this is not their reality. While attempting to survive stressful circumstances and attend school, some seniors are also tasked with securing funding for education beyond high school. Some will think this is simply not an option afforded to them because of their living situation.

Please ensure that any homeless, at-risk of being homeless and unaccompanied youth are aware of the following available resources:

**Federal financial aid** is available to students who are determined by the homeless liaison in the school district to be homeless, at-risk of being homeless or unaccompanied homeless youth. The homeless liaison is trained to interview the student, research the situation and provide a documented determination that can be used as supporting documentation for the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

As the student completes the FAFSA, he/she will answer a series of questions to determine dependency status for federal aid purposes. One such question is:

*At any time on or after July 1, 2015, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by:*

- (a) your high school or district homeless liaison;*
- (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or*
- (c) the directors of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?*

A footnote to this question:

If you do not have a determination that you are homeless, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, answer "NO" to the FAFSA question concerning being homeless. Then, contact your financial aid office to explain your situation.

Additional resources can be found through OSFA's website:  
[www.NavigatingYourFinancialFuture.org](http://www.NavigatingYourFinancialFuture.org).

Click on the Resources tab and then select the "Hot Topics" link to find valuable information for homeless students, foster youth, as well as adopted students.









The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few public agencies can, the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. OSFA provides financial aid workshops, publications, prompt services for participants and helps fund scholarship and grant programs. If a participant has a problem or suggestion, the OSFA management team listens and makes every effort to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve the kind of accountability OSFA provides in financing education.

**The News to Know for Counselors is now available on the Counselors page of the website [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org). Previous editions may be viewed on the [Archives](#) page.**

### **Contact OSFA**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**OSFA Customer Service: [1-888-827-2004](tel:1-888-827-2004)**

**Email: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)**

**Federal Loans: [1-800-366-3475](tel:1-800-366-3475)**

**Locally: [850-410-5200](tel:850-410-5200)**

**Email: [OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFAStudentLoans@fldoe.org)**

**Visit our website: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)**