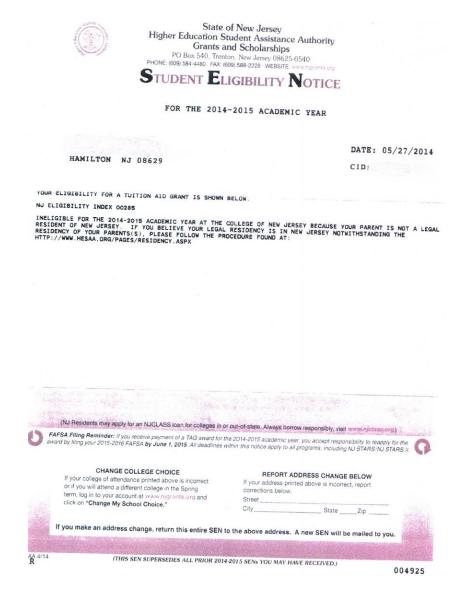
## HOW CAN CHILDREN OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS IN NJ APPEAL THE DENIAL OF FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

During the summer, graduating high school students who will be attending one of NJ's colleges in the fall start receiving a Student Eligibility Notice from the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). Based on the information students have provided on their previously filed FAFSA form, these notices confirm the amount of financial aid (TAG grants) they would be receiving, or notifies them that they are not eligible for financial aid, as the case may be.

NJ citizens and Legal Permanent Residents whose parents are not themselves citizens or Legal Permanent Residents have been receiving notices (like the one below) stating they are "ineligible...because your parent is not a legal resident of NJ".



However, pursuant to the decision from the NJ Appellate Court decision in A.Z v. HESAAA of 2012, these students cannot be barred from receiving financial aid on the basis of their parents immigration status and can appeal these denials within 60 days of receipt of the Student Eligibility Notice.

Below is a sample letter of appeals which includes a list of documents that should be submitted. The letter should <u>include the student's full name and address and the CID #</u> listed in the upper right hand corner of the HESAA notice

State of New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority Grant and Scholarships PO Box 540, Trenton, New Jersey 08625

June 5, 2014

CID:

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to appeal the attached denial of financial aid. I was born in the United States and have been a resident of New Jersey for 17 years. I have attached the following documentation as evidence.

- High School Transcript
- Copy of driver's license
- 2011 lease (currently paying monthly)
- 2013 utility bill
- 2013 cable bill
- Parent's tax return for 2013

Based on the enclosed documentation, I ask that you reconsider the denial of financial aid. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding my status as a United States citizen.

Sincerely,

This is a link to the complete instructions from the HESAA website: http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/residency.aspx

Any student in need of assistance with the process can call us 609-688-0881 for an appointment.

## Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund (LALDEF)

669 Chambers Street, Trenton NJ 08611 (609) 688.0881 www.LALDEF.ORG