


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".

 State of New Jersey
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
Grants and Scholarships
PO Box 540, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0540
PHONE: (609) 584-4480 FAX: (609) 588-2228 WEBSITE: www.njgrants.org

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY NOTICE

FOR THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

HAMILTON NJ 08629

DATE: 05/27/2014
CID: _____

YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR A TUITION AID GRANT IS SHOWN BELOW.
NJ ELIGIBILITY INDEX 00285

INELIGIBLE FOR THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY BECAUSE YOUR PARENT IS NOT A LEGAL RESIDENT OF NEW JERSEY. IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR LEGAL RESIDENCY IS IN NEW JERSEY NOTWITHSTANDING THE RESIDENCY OF YOUR PARENT(S), PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE FOUND AT:
[HTTP://WWW.HESAA.ORG/PAGES/RESIDENCY.ASPX](http://www.hesaa.org/pages/residency.aspx)

(NJ Residents may apply for an NJCLASS loan for colleges in or out-of-state. Always borrow responsibly, visit www.njclass.org)

FAFSA Filing Reminder: If you receive payment of a TAG award for the 2014-2015 academic year, you accept responsibility to reapply for the award by filing your 2015-2016 FAFSA by June 1, 2015. All deadlines within this notice apply to all programs, including NJ STARS/NJ STARS II.

CHANGE COLLEGE CHOICE
If your college of attendance printed above is incorrect or if you will attend a different college in the Spring term, log in to your account at www.njgrants.org and click on "Change My School Choice."

REPORT ADDRESS CHANGE BELOW
If your address printed above is incorrect, report corrections below:
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If you make an address change, return this entire SEN to the above address. A new SEN will be mailed to you.

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(THIS SEN SUPERSEDES ALL PRIOR 2014-2015 SENs YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED.)

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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 **include the student's full name and address and the CID #** 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: [REDACTED]

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