

# 2025-26 FAFSA Student Support Strategy Proposal Form

Organizations should complete this proposal form in order to request funding for eligible FAFSA submission activities beyond their current planned efforts and commitments for the 2025-26 application cycle. The U.S. Department of Education aims to increase the number of students who complete the FAFSA and enroll in college, particularly first-time and likely Pell-eligible students. ECMC will support these goals by providing federal funds to organizations with FAFSA submission experience.

**NOTE:** You cannot save your partial response. Please have all of your information together.

\* Required

## Contact Information

This will be the point of contact for all communication including any follow-up information. This should be someone that regularly monitors their email inbox and is generally reachable by phone.

1. Point of Contact's First Name \*

Enter your answer

2. Point of Contact's Last Name \*

3. Point of Contact's Title \*

4. Point of Contact's Email \*

Please enter an email

5. Point of Contact's Phone Number \*

6. The contact information for reports and surveys will be the person listed above \*

This person will be responsible for timely and accurate completion of required reporting throughout the project.

Yes

No

## Contact Information for Reports and Surveys

This person will be responsible for timely and accurate completion of required reporting throughout the project.

7. Reports & Surveys - First Name \*

8. Reports & Surveys - Last Name \*

9. Reports & Surveys - Email \*

Please enter an email

10. Reports & Surveys - Phone Number \*

## Organization Information

11. Organization Common Name \*

This should be what most people know your organization's name as, or your DBA if applicable.

12. Organization Formal Name \*

If your common name is an acronym or a "Doing Business As" (DBA) or has a longer legal name, enter your formal name below. This will not be applicable for many organizations.

13. Address 1 \*

This address should be specific enough that a mailed document would reach your organization's point of contact.

14. Address 2

15. Organization - City \*



16. Organization - State (or Territory) \*

- Alabama
- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Georgia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Marshall Islands
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada

- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Palau
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virgin Islands
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

17. Postal Code (Zip) \*

18. Country \*

19. Website \*

Please enter a URL

20. EIN Number \*

If you're a tax exempt organization, you can quickly find this number by going to <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>. Please use the #####-#### format.

21. Organization Type (check box that best applies) \*

- Public high school and K12 school district
- State, county, and/or city government agency that work to increase FAFSA completion and postsecondary education and training
- National nonprofit organization that works to increase access to higher education and/or economic opportunity for students
- State or local affiliate of national nonprofit organization that works to increase access to higher education and economic opportunity for students
- Nonprofit and public higher education institution and system of higher education that serve historically - excluded students and also work to promote broad access with high school senior
- For-profit entity, provided that the use of funds is restricted to the charitable purposes of the award
- Other local and state community-based organization that has deep ties with students and families and the capacity to strategically partner to expand reach of those with demonstrated expertise with financial aid counseling and support

22. Organization Summary \*

Provide an overview of the organization's purpose, relevant experience and expertise.

Please enter at most 1000 characters

23. Board of Directors and Executive Leadership \*

Name and organization would be sufficient here.

24. Do you have a fiscal sponsor? \*

A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects.

- Yes
- No

## Fiscal Sponsor

25. Name of Fiscal Sponsor Organization \*

26. Fiscal Sponsor's EIN Number \*

27. Fiscal Sponsor Contact - First Name \*

28. Fiscal Sponsor Contact - Last Name \*

29. Fiscal Sponsor Contact - Phone Number \*

30. Fiscal Sponsor Contact - Email \*

Please enter an email



## Capacity and Expertise

31. Organization Budget \*

Enter your organization's operating budget, in dollars, for the latest fiscal year.

32. Amount Requested from ECMC \*

The total dollar amount requested to be awarded to fund your project.

33. Additional Non-ECMC Budget (If Applicable) \*

If this project includes or would include dollars in addition to the funding from ECMC, please put those source(s) and amount(s) below.

34. Total Project Budget \*

Please state the total budget, in dollars, of this project.

**This should be equal to the total of Question 32 plus Question 33 (if applicable)**

35. FAFSA Experience \*

Briefly describe your organization's experience in providing FAFSA support or similar services.

36. Organizational Capacity \*

Briefly describe how your organization has handled a project in similar size or scope to the one that you are proposing.

## Project Details and Description

### 37. 18-Month Project Summary \*

Provide a summary of the activities for which you are requesting support and include a brief description of how this will increase the capacity of your current FAFSA submission and/or completion efforts.

**Participating organizations are expected to engage in FAFSA submission activities through the entire length of the award period.**

**Note:** Although this award may not be used to replace funds that would otherwise be used for this purpose, they may be used to supplement or expand those efforts. Funds may not be used for direct student support.

Please enter at least 1000 characters

### 38. This project will primarily focus on the following activity(-ies) \*

While you may do more than three of the following, select the up-to 3 that you will focus on.

Please select at most 3 options.

- Expanding the availability of advisers, counselors, and coaches to support students and contributors through the FAFSA applications, including extended hours during evenings, weekends, and the summer session
- Hosting FAFSA submission clinics, including through partnerships with schools and districts
- Providing transportation support to those participating in FAFSA submission clinics
- Expanded data-sharing intended to increase the submission of the 2025-26 and/or 2026-27 FAFSA form, particularly via state data portal partnerships with high schools and districts
- Hosting recognition programs to incentivize cities and school districts to meet numeric targets for FAFSA submission, such as exceeding last year's rate
- Designing and implementing strategies for parents to help them complete their portion of the form via text, phone calls, and videoconferences, in multiple languages, as needed
- Conducting outreach to students and families via phone calls, social media, text messages emails, paid advertising campaigns, and other means
- Offering technical assistance to support special populations (such as youth experiencing homelessness, students with contributors who do not have SSNs, incarcerated students, or Students from the Freely Associated States and U.S. Territories)

### 39. If you currently serve any of the special populations below, please select all that apply. \*

- First-generation college goers
- Students historically excluded from higher education
- Students with contributors who do not have SSNs
- Youth experiencing homelessness
- Incarcerated students
- Students from the Freely Associated States and U.S. Territories
- Students from low-income communities
- Other



40. Select the state(s) or territories you intend to serve. \*

- Alabama
- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Marshall Islands
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada

- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Palau
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virgin Islands
- Virginia
- Washington

41. Region(s) Served \*

42. City(-ies) Served \*

## Project Goals and Outcomes

43. Describe the overall goals and outcomes intended for your project \*

Goals should be realistic and plausibly achievable.

44. Measurement \*

Briefly describe how you intend to track/measure/quantify each goal and or outcome for your project.

For Example:

*Submissions - we will track appointments through our Salesforce.*

45. FAFSA Submissions \*

How many FAFSA applications do you expect to be submitted as a direct result of your project?

The value must be a number

46. Staffing \*

How many *new* counselors/advisors/program staff would be deployed to assist students? Include anyone that would either be reassigned or have their hours expanded in this count.

The value must be a number

47. Outreach Activities \*

Outreach to students and families/contributors via phone calls, social media, text messages emails, paid advertising campaigns, and other means.

The value must be a number

48. Events \*

Number of clinics, workshops, recognition events, trainings, webinars hosted.

The value must be a number

49. Sessions \*

Number of individual counseling sessions held with students and/or families/contributors to help submit a FAFSA.

The value must be a number

## Project Budget

### 50. 18-Month Budget Narrative \*

Please provide a line-by-line cost breakdown (e.g., staffing/interns/additional hours, consulting/consultants with intent of function, travel, supplies/equipment/technology, trainings/conferences/meetings, printing/publishing/outreach/events/webinars) of how you propose to spend the requested funding. Applicants are encouraged to review the FAFSA Student Support Strategy website when considering which activities are within the scope of the project and should be included in your budget.

*For Example:*

*\$32,760 - overtime for 4 staff at \$35/hr x 12hrs/week x 18mo. These staff will be deployed to host events as well as 1:1 counseling sessions.*

*\$13,650 - 39 events with some catering, staff support, venue, rentals, equipment at \$350/ea. \$11,700 - printing of fliers and posters for event awareness and community handouts at \$150/wk avg x 18mo. \$15,600 - social media campaigns and add spending at \$200/wk avg x 18mo.*

### 51. Budget Narrative for the First Half of the Project \*

*For Example:*

*\$16,380 - overtime for 4 staff at \$35/hr x 12hrs/week x 9mo. These staff will be deployed to host events as well as 1:1 counseling sessions.*

*\$6,650 - 19 events with some catering, staff support, venue, rentals, equipment at \$350/ea.*

*\$5,580 - printing of fliers and posters for event awareness and community handouts at \$150/wk avg x 9mo. \$7,800 - social media campaigns and add spending at \$200/wk avg x 9mo.*

### 52. Budget Narrative for the Second Half of the Project \*

*For Example:*

*\$16,380 - overtime for 4 staff at \$35/hr x 12hrs/week x mo. These staff will be deployed to host events as well as 1:1 counseling sessions.*

*\$7,000 - 20 events with some catering, staff support, venue, rentals, equipment at \$350/ea.*

*\$5,850 - printing of fliers and posters for event awareness and community handouts at \$150/wk avg x 9mo. \$7,800 - social media campaigns and add spending at \$200/wk avg x 9mo.*

### 53. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Staffing? \*

Expanding the availability of advisers, counselors, and coaches to support students and contributors through the FAFSA application process, including extended hours during evenings, weekends, and the summer weeks.

**We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.**

### 54. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Recognition Programs? \*

Hosting recognition programs to incentivize cities and school districts to meet numeric targets for FAFSA submission, such as exceeding last year's rate.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.

55. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Events and Clinics? \*

Hosting FAFSA submission clinics, including through partnerships with schools and districts where appropriate.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.

56. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Transportation? \*

Providing transportation support to those participating in FAFSA submission clinics.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.

57. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Data Sharing? \*

Expanded data-sharing intended to increase the completion of the FAFSA.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.

58. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Parent/Guardian Outreach? \*

Communicating with parents to help them complete their portion of the form via text, phone calls, and videoconferences, in multiple languages as needed.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.

59. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be for Student Outreach? \*

Conducting outreach to students and families via phone calls, social media, text messages emails, paid advertising campaigns, and other means.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.

60. What Portion of Your Total Project Budget Above Will Be Not Applicable to Previous Categories? \*

OTHER: does not fit at all in any of the above categories.

We are looking for dollar amounts instead of fractions or percentages.



## Disclosures

61. Do you have an existing or prior relationship with Educational Credit Management Corporation or its affiliated entities (ECMC Foundation, ECMC Holdings, or ECMC Group)? \*

*Examples of relationships that you should disclose include, but are not limited to: an investee of an ECMC entity (e.g., an ECMC entity or ECMC's Education Impact Fund has an investment or ownership interest); an ECMC entity's officer or director holds a financial interest or serves as a director, employee, consultant or volunteer in your organization; a grantee; a contractor/consultant; a vendor; have a relative that works for or serves at an ECMC entity; or participated in any previous award or grant facilitated by an ECMC entity.*

Yes

No

62. If you answered "Yes" above, then please provide details below.

Details about the relationship, including the nature of the relationship and/or the names of individuals at any ECMC-entity that you have a prior or existing relationship:

### 63. Consent to Process and Collect PII

I understand that Educational Credit Management Corporation ("ECMC") is collecting my personal data in this funding request form application for the purposes of:

- evaluating my application for participation in the U.S. Department of Education's FAFSA Student Support Strategy (the "FAFSA SS Strategy");
- measuring the impact of the FAFSA SS Strategy;
- publishing information about the applicants and the awardees; and
- collecting statistics about its applicants (collectively the "Purposes").

I understand and agree to the collection of my personal data in accordance with facilitating the Purposes listed above. I also understand that in furtherance of the Purposes, ECMC may disclose my personal information to third parties, including without limitation the U.S. Department of Education, to facilitate and assist with the Purposes.

In addition, ECMC may disclose my information to third parties where permitted by law, including when we have a good faith belief that such action is necessary to (i) protect the legal rights and security of our company, affiliates or partners; (ii) respond to an audit or investigate a complaint; or (iii) comply with applicable law, court order, subpoena, request for cooperation by a governmental entity, or other legal process or investigation.

To prevent unauthorized access, maintain data accuracy, and verify the appropriate use of information, ECMC will take commercially reasonable precautions to protect the personal data I provide, including physical, administrative, and technical safeguards to protect personal data from unauthorized access, alteration, use or disclosure. While ECMC will do its best to protect my information once it is in its possession, no security measures are perfect or impenetrable and thus the transmission, sharing, and storage of my personal information is not completely secure against interception. As a result, ECMC cannot guarantee me against interception, loss, misuse, or alteration of my information and thus my choice to provide such personal information is at my own risk.

ECMC will only store my information until it is no longer needed to fulfill the purpose(s) for which it was collected, or as otherwise required or permitted by law. ECMC may dispose of any data in its discretion without notice, subject to applicable law.

I understand that I may choose not to provide my personal information and/or I may revoke my consent to continue to process and store my personal information, but that if I do so, this fund request form application will be unable to be further processed, including for purposes of eligibility for the FAFSA SS Strategy.

\*

By checking this box, I agree that I have read the above and consent to the collection, processing, storage, and disclosure of my personal data in accordance with the terms set forth above.

I agree

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