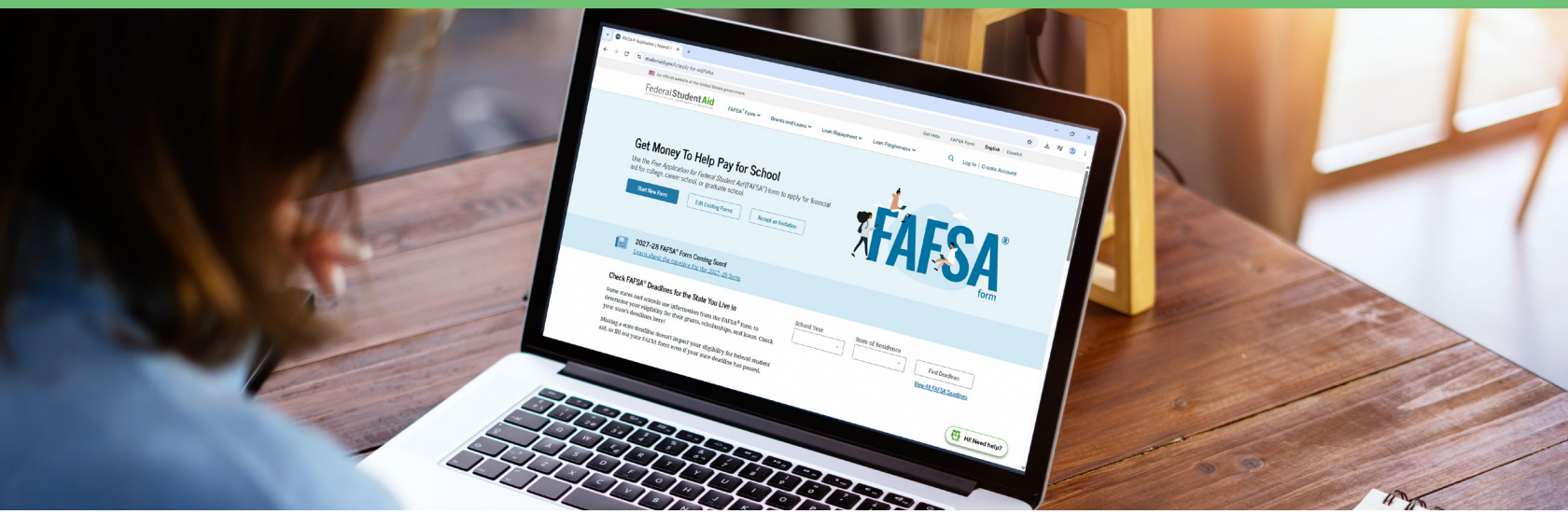
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Minnesota Financial Aid: Share Your Experiences



The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) is seeking input from students, families, financial aid professionals, and other higher education stakeholders about Minnesota's financial aid programs.

Your feedback will help OHE better understand how students and families experience the state's financial aid system and identify ways to make it easier to use, more predictable, and more accessible for Minnesotans.

Insights from this study will inform future financial aid system improvements and policy proposals.

What we hope to learn:

- What is working well, and not working well, in Minnesota's current financial aid system?
- How well do current and future students and families understand Minnesota's financial aid programs?
- How can we make state financial aid easier to understand?
- What are challenges and opportunities to consider when exploring potential changes?

How can I participate?

In summer and fall 2026, we will have a variety of ways for students, families, and partner organizations to share their experiences and ideas.

See https://bit.ly/4hsJG9u or scan the QR code for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will these changes affect next year's financial aid packages?

No. Financial aid programs will stay the same for the 2027 cycle. No significant changes can be made to the existing state financial aid model without the approval of the Minnesota Legislature and Governor.

Are you trying to cut funding? Will I receive less money next year?

No, the aim of this project is not to cut funding. The goal is to help make sure that Minnesota's financial aid programs are stable and predictable, increasing access to higher education for students with financial need.

Can I participate in this research if I don't get financial aid or don't know much about it?

Yes! We want to hear from all kinds of current and future students, including those who aren't as familiar with state financial aid programs. Your perspective is valuable to this work.

Why are you doing this research? What's wrong with the current model?

We are hoping to learn more about what is and isn't working for families. Programs such as North Star Promise have expanded access to college, but some aspects of the financial aid system can be difficult to understand and predict. We want to better understand these experiences and identify ways to improve programs, processes, and communication.

Can you help me predict my financial aid award? Will my answers to this survey affect the amount of funding I receive?

No, we are not evaluating participants for financial aid suitability and cannot provide expected funding amounts for any individual or family. Participation in any surveys, interviews, and/or focus groups is always voluntary and will have no bearing on a student's ability to receive financial aid.

For more information on Minnesota financial aid programs, please visit https://ohe.mn.gov/financial-aid-programs.

Is funding for this research taking away financial aid dollars?

No. This work is funded through a grant from the Lumina Foundation's Great Admissions Redesign initiative and is not funded with student financial aid dollars.

Any other questions? Reach out to FinancialAid.OHE@state.mn.us.