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Deadline to apply for financial aid Tuesday

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Parents and students are busy filling out financial aid forms.

[Chris Proffitt/Eyewitness News](#)

Indianapolis - There are ways to take some of the financial burden off of college-bound students and their families.

A quick look at this year's Indiana applications for college financial aid says a lot about the economy. Applications are up 110 percent statewide in one day in February. Ben Davis High school senior Marcell Jones is one of over 158,000 Indiana students to apply.



"I applied for scholarship money to take the burden off my mom having to pay for all the school and we felt like the scholarships were just the little bit of help we needed because my brother's also in college," Jones said.

Financial aid, such as scholarships, grants and work study assistance comes from several sources, including colleges and universities. But the bulk of the money comes from the federal government and state programs. The state student assistance commission is making an 11th hour push to get college-bound students to apply online by using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before a Tuesday deadline.

"Within the last five days, we normally see about 40-50 percent of all the applications come in. They're very very last minute and the deadline is Tuesday," said Elizabeth Crouch with Learn More Indiana.

Even though the aid is based on household income, students say the skyrocketing costs of college make financial aid a necessity.

"I applied for scholarship money to help my parents, because college isn't cheap," said Ben Davis senior Adam Reich.

"It's free money to go to school, to get a better job. Take it. I would, that's what I'm doing now," said Avon senior Korey Simpson.

With billions in aid, tax credits rising and grants increasing, the burdensome cost of college is making a dream for some students affordable.

The federal government makes \$83 billion available in college financial aid, while Indiana pumps in \$233 million. Despite that enormous amount of money, 150,000 Indiana high school seniors didn't apply last year.



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