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New initiatives will help students get financial aid

Updated: Feb 24, 2009 11:41 AM EST



[Lynsay Clutter](#)/ Eyewitness News

Indianapolis - The Indiana Commission for Higher Education says it's concerned about the economy, the growing need for financial aid and the rising cost of tuition.

That's it is a critical time to make sure that every student gets access to available funds.

Last year, that wasn't necessarily the case. Despite the \$233.5 million in financial aid given out in Indiana last year, at least 150,000 students failed to get their FAFSA form in by the March 10th deadline, and missed out on money. Many others didn't even apply.

"I think a misperception is that families don't even fill out a FAFSA because they think they wouldn't qualify, but it is your access to grants, loans, a wealth of financial aid," said Cheryl Orr, Indiana Communications for Higher Education.

The commission says, Friday, it will release how much cash was never utilized last year. How much financial aid will be available this year is still getting worked out in the General Assembly.

Governor Mitch Daniels' plan calls for a freeze on funds, but the commission says the state has always had a robust financial aid program and anticipates there will be enough money.

"Well, obviously we're really concerned about the economy, we're also concerned about the rising cost of tuition, and all those things together, everybody's got to do their part, and we've really got to connect families to make sure they have all the resources that are available to make sure they can make that a reality." Orr said.

So, it will announce two major initiatives, Friday, to make sure every dollar reaches a student in need.

"A big issue is the March 10th deadline, so these two strategies are really specific to make sure that Hoosier families know that, have the resources to be able to file, and get their FAFSA in on time," Orr said.

Every family is encouraged to submit a FAFSA, even if you have to estimate your financial information, and then go back and correct it.

In addition to the efforts launched by the commission, it also encourages families to attend [College Goal Sunday](#) this weekend.



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