



A Second Look: Appealing Your Aid Award When Family Finances Shift

If you or your parents have experienced a change in circumstances or you feel that your FAFSA doesn't tell the whole story about your family's financial situation, we might be able to reconsider your aid award!



Here are some examples of reasons or circumstances that can lead to a re-evaluation of your aid package:

- job loss of a family member or an independent student
- medical, dental, or nursing home expenses not covered by insurance
- day care expenses, or tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school
- a student or family member becoming a dislocated worker
- parent(s) enrolled at least half time in a degree, certificate, or other educational program
- a student becoming homeless

If any of these apply to you, follow these three steps:

1. [File your FAFSA.](#)

If you've already submitted the FAFSA, skip to Step 2.

2. Complete our Special Circumstance form, and provide any documents or information we ask for.

Once we've received this, we'll review the information to see if we can use "professional judgment" to adjust your award. We can consider situations that are extenuating and are having a significant impact on your family's finances. On the Special Circumstance form, we ask you to provide some details about the situation and may also ask you for some documentation of what's happening.

Send it in as quickly as possible!

3. Keep an eye on your email.

After we have reviewed the form we'll email you to let you know if we need more information or whether or not we were able to award you additional funds. If you don't hear from us in X weeks, please feel free to check in on the status of your financial aid appeal.

Our [Office of Financial Aid](#) will work with you to ensure you have access to the resources you need to pay for college. Our goal is to make sure all qualified applicants can invest in an education here.

If you have any questions about financial aid, need help filling out the FAFSA or encounter special financial circumstances your family is experiencing, please call us at 410-532-5369 or [email us](#).