



Business Engagement

“What does FAFSA education have to do with my business?”

- Directly results in a stronger workforce
- Benefits employees pursuing education for themselves or loved ones
- Strengthens our community and shows commitment to our youth

Introduction

At LaunchNW, we believe the future of our region rests on the education our students receive after high school. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is a critical step in securing financial aid for two-year and four-year degree programs, as well as vocational institutions. By partnering with us to host FAFSA completion events, **your business can play a vital role** in empowering high school seniors and supporting the future workforce of our community.

Understanding the FAFSA

Completing the FAFSA opens the door to various financial aid opportunities, including federal grants, work-study programs, and student loans. **It is the first step** toward making higher education accessible and affordable for all students.

FAFSA Fact Check

What is the FAFSA? Why complete it?

- ✓ Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid opens the door to available aid, including federal grants, work-study funds, loans, and some state/school-based aid

“I won’t qualify for aid, so there’s no point in applying.”

- ✓ Many factors determine eligibility, and most students qualify for some form of aid. There are no income cut-offs for federal student aid.

Who should apply and when?

- ✓ All students planning to attend college or career school should apply. Applications open October 1st each year.

“The FAFSA is too complicated and time-consuming.”

- ✓ The FAFSA can be completed in about 30 minutes with preparation.

Training Your Employees

Educating Employees on FAFSA Importance

Host internal workshops to educate your employees about FAFSA and its significance for their families and community. Use these sessions to explain the process and answer any questions they may have. Potential training materials might include presentation slides providing a comprehensive overview of the FAFSA, handouts detailing step-by-step guide, FAQs, and resources, or even links to video tutorials on completing the FAFSA form.

Family Information Sessions

Encourage employees to attend family information sessions where they can learn about the FAFSA process and how it can benefit their children. Provide practical tips and resources to help them support their high school seniors.

Hosting a FAFSA Completion Event

- **Choose a Date and Venue:** Coordinate with employees to select a date that makes the most sense for your business and volunteers.
- **Assemble a Team:** Recruit volunteers from your business and train them using the materials we provide you. We can help connect you to financial aid experts from local institutions, too.
- **Gather Resources:** Organize a proper space that allows families to break away from other families. Ensure you have internet access and sufficient computers and printed materials for attendees.

Event Checklist

Before Event

- Confirm date and venue
- We will help you promote the event in the community
- Prepare materials and resources (provided by LaunchNW)

During Event

- Welcome attendees and provide an overview (LNW-provided slide deck)
- Assist students and families with the FAFSA in a private and secure space
- Offer one on one support
- LaunchNW will connect you with professional support to attend your event (live or virtual) should unexpected problems occur

Conclusion

By partnering with LaunchNW's FAFSA Opens Doors program to host FAFSA completion events, your business can make a significant difference in the lives of high school seniors and their families. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to pursue post high school education and achieve their dreams.

For more information or to get involved, contact us at bduncan@innovia.org