

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Window for College Financial Aid Applications Opened Jan. 1**  
*Colorado's CollegeInvest says applying early could mean more assistance*

The window to apply for higher education financial aid opened Jan. 1 and Colorado students and their families could benefit from getting in their application promptly, according to CollegeInvest, the state's not-for-profit higher education financing resource.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used by both the government and colleges to determine the amount of aid awarded through scholarships, grants, work-study programs and student loans.

According to CollegeInvest, the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 academic year can be submitted through June 30, 2009, but students planning on attending college in the fall should send in their FAFSA as soon as possible.

"Some financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis," said Jennifer Robinson of CollegeInvest. "Don't wait until the deadline to send in applications because applying early can equal more financial aid."

Financial aid is available to students in almost every income bracket so filling out the FAFSA makes sense for students from a variety of income levels.

Starting this year, students and parents should complete the FAFSA online but first they must create a personal identification number or PIN. The PIN allows students and parents to sign the form electronically rather than mailing a signature page. Students and parents can go to [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to complete their FAFSA.

Resources are available to help Colorado families fill out the FAFSA. CollegeInvest has posted information on the FAFSA at [www.collegeinvest.org](http://www.collegeinvest.org). There students and their families can:

- See answers to frequently asked FAFSA questions.
- Print a checklist of items needed to complete the FAFSA.
- View quick tips to keep in mind when filling out the FAFSA.

Colorado families can also attend College Goal Sunday for help and valuable tips on filling out the FAFSA. College Goal Sunday will be held in 14 different locations across the state on Feb. 10 (the event will be held in Alamosa on Feb. 9). Visit [CollegeGoalColorado.org](http://CollegeGoalColorado.org) for more information.

"Colorado students and families should be thinking about the FAFSA now to maximize the amount of student financial aid they are eligible to receive," Robinson added.

## **About CollegeInvest**

CollegeInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegeInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, scholarships, college savings plans, and low-cost student and parent loans. For more information, visit [www.collegeinvest.org](http://www.collegeinvest.org) or call 1-800-448-2424 or contact your financial advisor.

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