

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Colorado students can get a jump start on the college financial aid process** *CollegelInvest encourages students to use the FAFSA4caster*

The current economic situation makes applying early for college financial aid more important than ever. Students expecting to enroll or continue in college in the fall of 2010 can get an early start on the financial aid application process. [College financial aid](#) is awarded usually on a first come, first served basis.

Colorado's [CollegelInvest](#), a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, is encouraging students and families to take advantage of the FAFSA4caster to plan for higher education expenses.

Students and families can learn more about the FAFSA4caster and complete the form at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov).

The FAFSA4caster, provided by the U.S. Department of Education, provides students and families with the opportunity to get an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA must be completed and submitted to qualify for grants, work-study, federal loans and even many scholarships

The application period for the FAFSA does not open until Jan. 1 each year but the FAFSA4caster allows families to find out how much aid they might expect and become familiar with the financial aid application process before that window opens. Users then can transfer all of their data to their FAFSA when they are ready to apply for aid.

"Families should plan ahead for their college expenses now more than ever," said Janet Gullickson of CollegelInvest. "The FAFSA4caster is a great new tool that helps families do that. By completing the FAFSA4caster, families can be better prepared to file the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. Given the expected increase in demand for student financial aid for the 2010-2011 year, all families should consider applying earlier."

Colorado families struggling with the costs of college can turn to CollegelInvest, which for three decades has helped families across the state pay for college by providing planning tools, [college savings plans](#), scholarships, matching grants, community outreach programs, and student loan forgiveness.

### **About CollegelInvest**

[CollegelInvest](#) is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegelInvest 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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