Federal Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability

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There are college programs for students with intellectual disability that are not giving out a standard college degree. These are called Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary programs, or CTP programs. There are special rules to access financial aid for these programs that are explained below.

What is federal financial aid?

To be a student at a college, you have to pay money to the college. This is called tuition. A college student can apply for financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college tuition. There are two ways to get this money to help pay for college. One is called a loan. This is money you will have to pay back to the government. The other way is called a grant. This is money you will not have to pay back to the government. Right now, the law says that students with intellectual disability who attend a CTP are not eligible for federal student loans.

How do I get financial aid?

You have to show these things to be qualified for financial aid:

1. **Attend an approved Comprehensive Transition Program or CTP.** Check out the list of CTPs. If the program you want to attend is not on this list, that means that they have not applied to be a CTP yet. You can ask them if they will be a CTP sometime in the future.
2. **Have an intellectual disability** as said in the Higher Education Opportunity Act.
3. **Your family must show that they need financial help to pay for college.** The way to do this is to fill out a form called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Aren't done with high school? You cannot get financial aid for college if you are still taking classes or getting services in high school.

What kinds of financial aid are there?

There are three kinds of federal financial aid that you could get:

1. **Federal Pell Grant**
   This is a grant which means it is money you do not have to pay back. It goes to your college to help pay for your tuition. The amount of money you get can change each year. The most you can get in 2020 is $6,345. How much money you can get is based on your financial need.

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2. **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant**
   This is a grant which means it is money you do not have to pay back. It goes to your college to help pay for your tuition. You can get $100 –$4,000 a year.

3. **The Federal Work-Study Program**
   This provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. The money you get from the job can help you pay for tuition and other school costs. You do not have to pay back this money.

Who can help me?

To learn more about the FAFSA and other questions about federal financial aid, visit the Federal Student Aid Information Center: https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/

For help on questions about financial aid for students with intellectual disability, contact www.thinkcollege.net

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