**The Time is Now: Graduates, fill out a FAFSA**

If you have or know of a graduating senior, it’s time for them to complete a FAFSA form!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is a graduate’s passport for going to college. All federal grant and loan awards are determined by this free application, and nearly all colleges use the FAFSA as the basis for their own financial aid awards. Last year, nearly **$15 million** in was left on the table by students in our region because nearly half of graduating students didn’t apply.

Getting more kids on track to attend college is crucial. By 2020, **65%** of jobs will require a credential beyond a high school diploma. However, only **35%** of Tulsa’s adult population holds an associate’s degree or higher. Couple that with only **60%** of Tulsa area graduates enrolling in postsecondary education, and our workforce is in clear danger.

To help more graduates complete the FAFSA, ImpactTulsa, a collective impact partnership working with 15 Tulsa area school districts, created **FAFSATulsa.com**. This website is filled with financial calculators, tutorials, frequently asked questions and links to additional local financial resources.

Filling out the FAFSA is easy. The applicant will need to provide the following for themselves and their parents:

* Their Social Security Number
* 2015 Federal Income Tax return and W-2s
* Any bank statements, investments or records of untaxed income
* A Federal Student Aid ID (you can easily get one at fafsa.gov)
* Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
* A list of schools students want to receive the results of their FAFSA

There is no income cut-off for federal student aid, and it only takes an average of 30-55 minutes to complete the form. Not to mention the benefits of going to college are too good to pass up. A recent article from the Buffalo News cites college graduates earn an average $1.1 million more over lifetime compared to those who do not have a college degree.

So what are you waiting for? Visit [www.fafsatulsa.com](http://www.fafsatulsa.com) today to get started! For some, it could literally be the greatest resource in helping them pursue their dream and entering into our community’s workforce.