

The Ultimate Resource for Counselors and Mentors: The Financial Aid Toolkit

Speaker 1: Welcome and thank you for joining today's conference, The Ultimate Resource for Counselors and Mentors, The Financial Aid Toolkit. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. With that, I'll turn the call over to Maisha Challenger. Please go ahead.

Maisha: Thank you so much. Greetings everyone and welcome to our FSA webinar series for the month of July. We haven't seen you in a couple of months, but we are back. My name is Maisha Challenger, and I'm an Awareness and Outreach Specialist here at Federal Student Aid. Our webinar topic for the month of July is entitled The Ultimate Resource for Counselors and Mentors, The Financial Aid Toolkit. Our presenter today is no stranger to our webinar theory, Ms. Tanika Mangum, Outreach Specialist, part of the Customer Outreach Group here at FSA, and we are super excited to see what she has in store for you all today. A few housekeeping notes. All questions during the presentation should be sent to the following email address, fsaoutreachwebinars@ed.gov.

We'll post the email shortly in the presentation, but once again, that's fsaoutreachwebinars@ed.gov. At the conclusion of this webinar, we will share some of the questions and answers, and give our presenter an opportunity to provide additional information. It is also important to note that for those who are unable to join this webinar in real-time today, it will be recorded and available on The Financial Aid Toolkit In one to two weeks. We will also provide a PDF version of the PowerPoint slides and a brief survey. Now that we've taken care of logistics, are you all ready? This is going to be a fun and interactive presentation today. Tanika, I will turn it over to you.

Tanika: Hello, hello. Good afternoon to everyone. Counselors and mentors I'm so excited that you are here to join us for The Ultimate Resource, and that is The Financial Aid Toolkit Webinars. Today, we're going to talk about a few things, and I want to make sure that we're all on the same page about what we're going to be covering today. We're going to start with what is the financial aid tool kit, how I can help you find request so you get to say, "I'm looking for this, Tanika. How can you help me find it?" and we're going to do just that today.

We're going to talk about some toolkit sections of The Financial Aid Toolkit, and we're going to do a live demonstration so you know exactly where to find everything that you need in order to help your students and your families. Then we'll close with some tools, a resource, and of course, a survey and questions to make sure that we are serving you at our best and top quality. Let's go ahead and get started. Again, just a reminder questions. If you have any questions throughout this presentation, please, please, please submit them so that we can answer them at the conclusion of this webinar at fsaoutreachwebinars@ed.gov. That is F as in Frank, S as in Sam, A as in ask me outreachwebinars@ed.gov.

What is a financial aid tool kit? Well, I'm glad that you asked, and I'm glad that you're here. [inaudible 00:03:23] of you have already known what The Financial Aid Toolkit is, or if you're brand new, and you're a new counselor or a mentor, you don't want to miss this resource. The Financial Aid Toolkit provides federal student aid information and all kinds of outreach tools for counselors, college access professionals, nonprofits mentors, and so many more people. If you work with any type of students, whether they are entering college or post-secondary education, or if they're already in college and need some additional support, this Financial Aid Toolkit is for you.

We have designed this site so that you can get all access to everything that's new, everything that's current, and anything that might be upcoming as well. Here's a time where we want to hear from you. We want to hear from you. We want to hear what your requests might be. In order to do this, because this is the interactive part, we want you to join us. I want you to go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com). That's www.menti.com. Now, you can do this on your phone or on your laptop, or your desktop, wherever you are. Go ahead to [www.menti](https://www.menti.com), that's M-E-N-T-I.com. Not Mentos like the candy. We're talking about Menti here. That's M-E-N-T-I.com.

Once you get there, you're going to see Mentimeter at the top and it's going to ask you for code. This is the code that you will answer. You will enter a 6-3-5-9-0-5-2. Again, that number is 6-3-5-9-0-5-2. Then you're going to hit submit, and you will see a question. If you miss that, again, that is [www.menti](https://www.menti.com), M-E-N-T-I.com. That number you will enter is 6-3-5-9-0-5-2. Now, when you get there, you're going to see a screen that looks like this, and we have a question already. Some of you are already... whew, you [inaudible 00:05:51], you're already on it. That's right. You're already answering. The very first question is how long have you been a counselor or a mentor helping students?

Let's see, what have we got here? Oh, we got some new comers. Yes, 12 people less than a year. Welcome to the field. We're so happy to have you. If you're between... oh, one to four years, yes, you know a thing or two. That's right. We're happy to have you here. Oh, show stoppers! Nine plus years! Whew! You are... I mean, you should do this presentation, yeah? But we're so excited to have you, so go ahead. Let us know where you are representing. Five to eight years, you know some things. You can teach the other ones and you can maybe give a little pointers to some seasoned folks as well. We love to have you here. Thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you. Yes, we're loving it, loving it.

We're going to give another five seconds here so you can see who's on, give anybody the last minute, because we want everyone to participate as much as possible. If you're just joining us and you just logged in, you're like, "What's going on?" We want you to head to everything that's at the top of the page, www.menti.com. Here, we're going to put in the code 6-3-5-9-0-5-2, and you're going to go ahead and just answer the question. Tell us, tell us how long you've been helping students with the financial aid process. Okay. It looks like everybody has got their numbers in. We're going to go on to the very next question.

Now, this very next question, you could answer all throughout this entire presentation. What we're going to do is that we're going to come back to it, and this is going to be

your opportunity to share what you would like to see. What would you like to find on this Financial Aid Toolkit? Go ahead and just type in, what would you like to find on The Financial Aid Toolkit? This is going to actually guide us in today's presentation. Yes, we're going to go through every single section of the Financial Aid Toolkit, but maybe there's something you have in mind. Maybe there's something that you're just like, "Hey, I've been asked about this so many times, Tanika. I need some help. Can you help me find this?"

Okay, great. We have, how do you learn about updates and federal student aid? We're definitely going to cover that. How to have students contact lenders? Great question. We'll talk about that. Best practices for speaking with parents. Nice. Really good topic. Helpful links, updates, loan rules or regulations. Great, nice. Short videos and handouts to share with students of parents. Absolutely, we'll get that. How to help students submit the FAFSA without their parents' tax information? Great question. We'll cover all of those as well. Yes, yes, yes. Keep putting all of that in and you're going to continue, anything that should come to mind. You don't have to rush. As we go through the sections, maybe something comes to mind, you say, "Oh, what about this?"

Put it here. What we're going to do is we're going to bounce back and forth here, and we're going to come back to this page and we're going to help out with a few of the things. Okay? Let's head back to the presentation because we've got more to share, but again, just keep this open, this window open or this tab open on your computers, so that way you can input as much as she can. Excellent, excellent. Okay. Then we're going to switch over back to the presentation. Excellent. Let's talk about The Financial Aid Toolkit and all of this section. There are actually four sections for the Financial Aid Toolkit. The very first section is on learning about financial aid. If you have... sorry.

If you have any questions about financial aid, maybe you have a first-gen student or someone who's just very unfamiliar, their parents do have a college degree, but it's been years, right, and needs to have a little refresher? Now, this is the first section that you absolutely want to go through. It's going to help with preparing for college. It's going to talk about the different types of aid and eligibility. We're even going to talk about the FAFSA process and also loan repayment processes. You can find that all in the first section. When I talk about sections, we're going to see exactly what I mean in a second, but we're going to go through every single section, but it's going to give you an overview right now.

The second section is conduct outreach. Just like me, you all are out there and you are also helping your students. You are also conducting outreach, and maybe you need a little bit more support, and you just need some tools and some resources to help you along the way. Well, we have tips on how to host an event. Maybe you're a first time counselor or mentor. We saw a lot of you on the call today, and you're thinking, "Hey, I want to host an event, but I really just don't know if I have everything that I need." This is the section that you want to go to. If you want to make a presentation, we have tools and resources for that. If you want to target certain types of groups for your outreach, maybe it's borrowers, maybe it's military families, maybe it's first-gen, or a non US citizen, what do you do? What do you say? We have sections on that as well.

Then we have digital outreach. Now, I don't know if you follow us on social media, but if you don't, you absolutely should. That's right. You absolutely should because our social media team does an amazing job, not only in just sharing information, but they also create these beautiful images that are able for you to copy and put into your email, your list serves, or even add to a newsletter or any kind of thing to make everything seem seamless and more tangible for any person to understand. We'll talk about those links. Then we have articles and emails as well. If you need help trying to figure out where to send students or where to get information, we have a section that.

Then we have our public service announcements. This is anything that's new. I saw the word pandemic in one of those questions, so yes, this is the section to talk about anything that's public service announcement, whether that would be public service in terms of pandemic, or even public service in terms of the public service loan forgiveness programs, or any other programs. Then we have our federal student aid partner, Spotlight. Now, this is something that we've been doing for a little bit over two or three years, and we want to spotlight people who are doing amazing work. You'll talk a little bit about that on this page as well.

Now, let's move on to section number three. This is where you get training. We seem to have a lot of new folks, but sometimes even as a seasoned person, like myself or many of you on the call, you might just want to get additional training that might be updated, or just need a little bit more information on a certain section that you might have covered before. This is the section you will get all of that training, and then section four, as you search for financial aid tools and resources. Now, this is your one stop shop to get anything. I'm talking articles, pamphlets, booklets, resources, webinars, anything that you want, presentations will be on this page, and I will show you how to get to them.

As I'm talking about this, let's just go on to a live demonstration, yeah? Okay, here we go. When we go through the Financial Aid Toolkit, let's talk about how you get there first. What you're going to do is you're going to go to financialaidtoolkit.gov, okay? Financialaidtoolkit, all one word, .ed.gov. Financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov. Once you come to this page, you will be on this home page here. Now, earlier I talked about, there are four sections, yeah? The first section was going to be Learn About Financial Aid, second, Conduct Outreach, third, Get Training, and fourth, Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources. This, again, is a page just for you, so we're going to go through every little detail.

Now, you can do one or two options. You can scroll down here and click on the link and it will go to a homepage. Or, if you know exactly what you're looking for, we can also do drop-downs. Earlier, let's talk about Learn About Financial Aid. The very first is preparing for college. How do I assist my students and my family in preparing for college? Well, this site is exactly what you want to do. They're going to talk about the different types of college, the colleges versus career schools. You're going to talk about the connections between schools and careers. You also have a college preparation checklist. You also have direct students to free college search tools, like where do we send them to help then? How do you support under-represented students and network? How you get support from your own colleagues?

If you're new to field, please know you are not alone. All of us are in this fight together to help our students and our families know a little bit more so they can feel equipped and have access into the education that they aspire to have. Please note that every single link is going to be a direct forward to that section. We're just going to be talking about this. It will jump straight to this section, and here we'll have graphics, we'll have different links that you can use. These are all clickable links to give you access to everything that you need. We're going to scroll down, and here you can talk about career search. If you have a student who's on the fence, doesn't really know what they're interested in, you might need to support them a little bit to identify some areas of interest that they might find a connection with.

Then this career search is a beautiful tool to have students understand what type of careers could be associated with certain majors, and the type of school that will be connected to those careers. Then we have a section on share your college preparation checklist. Now, studentaid.gov, which I will click on, goes straight to the college prep checklist here. Here, you will see there'll be a checklist for as far back as elementary school, okay? We have an elementary school checklist. We also have a middle school checklist, and we have specific checklists in high schools. We have a 9th grade checklist, a 10th grade checklist, 11th grade and 12th grade.

Then, if you're working with students who might not be going to post-secondary for the first time, they're ongoing to graduate school, yep, you got it. We've got a grad school checklist as well. We even have adult student checklists for those who are not our non-traditional students. If they're getting a late start, maybe they're deciding at the last minute, school's about to enroll and they're saying, "Oh, I actually want to go to school now in September," and classes start September, then you have a checklist for that, too, to help them prepare to move forward. Okay? That is a great way. Now, the other thing to note is that you can always go back. All these windows will always open in their own individual pages. They'll all be individual tasks, okay?

Now, I want to make sure that you all can see this. I have enlarged the page, so that way everyone can view everything that's being seen. Now, talking about free college search tools, we have a college navigator. If you have a student who's not quite sure about locations or degrees offered, or different types of majors... like maybe they're really interested in forensics, for example and they're saying, "Well, I don't really know what schools offer forensics." Well, they can do a college navigator that helps them find all the schools that have forensics as a major, and it will show them the tuition, that fees, the location, the size of the institution, so much more.

If you're needing a resource to direct students to so that they can help narrow down their search, or name some institutions that they might be interested in applying to, this is the perfect site to do, and it is called College Navigator. Then we have supporting underrepresented students. Now, many of you might have heard about TRIO. TRIO is a great program. There's three different programs. TRIO is one of them. Then we also have GEAR UP, that's really focusing on students and entering into post-secondary education with a partnership with careers and interests as well. Then you have National College Access Network, or in other words, NCAN, and this is also another college access program.

If you're working with students at an earlier age, and they might need a little bit more support or guidance in terms of their educational endeavors, check out these three programs to see if they're in your area or your state, that you could recommend for students to consider, and their families to consider in preparation for college. Then last, but certainly not least, please note that you have a ton of resources and networks that we have here. These are just a few that we want to make sure that you're aware of. Please, if you're new to the field or if you're on the beginning stages, and you just feel like, "I'm just disconnected. I would love to meet other people who are in the same field that I can bounce ideas off of," go to this site on this first section, and scroll all the way down to the place of this area.

We're going to talk about these three different organizations, just to give you a start to see if any of them will be ideal for you. Now, we're going to go all the way back to the top. That is section number one, but before we move forward to section number two, I want to go back and see if there's any question that you guys put in, in terms of this section. Let's see here. What do we have? What do we have? Great. [inaudible 00:20:06] that helps me, and I could have the PDF... Let's see. We did cover a lot about resources for beginning students, students with parents who are not married and file separately. Okay, so we're going to talk about filing. It looks like that's a big question here. People ask about handouts. Okay. Okay. It looks like this section... you guys probably have this section under hand, okay?

Let's dive into the Conduct Outreach section, which will allow for you to answer a lot of the questions that you see fit. Okay, here we go. Okay, so Conduct Outreach. There's a lot of buttons here, okay? There's a lot of sections here, but I think it's important to go through each one so you know exactly where to find all of these areas. Again, all of these links at the top will always be linked to go straight to the section that you would like. If you want to host an event, this is your first time hosting your own financial aid event, or your college prep event, you can literally click here and it's going to send you directly to how to do that. What are the things that you need? Okay? It's going to talk about setting a goal for your event, choosing the location.

It's going to be talking about choosing presenters. How do you find the best presenters? What are some tips that you want to give the presenters in preparation to your event? Then also talking about advertising the event and how the best way to advertise. Now, every audience has different avenues to advertise. Maybe it's a listserv. Maybe it's a mailing list. Maybe it's on your social media pages, or maybe it'd be an email. You just want to make sure that you have an idea of how you're going to advertise your event, and then gathering handouts and resources, which is what I see you guys really wanting, so we're going to go to that section, which is the very last section, and talk about doing that.

But here is talking about a generic way, a handout about how to apply for Federal Student Aid, and then the most important question that we always get, am I a dependent or independent student? As you can see, we also have these in Spanish. Okay, so it's important that if you do have a Spanish speaking audience of students or families, that we do have the resources also in Spanish. Okay? Then get help with carrying out events. Maybe there is a collaboration that you're going to have. Speaking

of collaboration, I will talk about ways that you can collaborate with us, okay? How to access your event and specific tips. All of this is here for all the newcomers in terms of hosting your own event.

Now, that is different from financial aid event, and then there's a different type of event, which is called a FAFSA Completion Workshop. Now, the FAFSA Completion Workshops is all about helping students to complete the FAFSA. There are different types of things that you might need in terms of helping students complete the FAFSA. Many of you have questions already on there about how do I help a student who doesn't have their tax information, or how do I help a student whose parent won't give them tax information? So many different tips here. You will see all of that here. Here's another thing I want to point out here, is a FAFSA demo site. Did you guys know that you have access to the demo site?

What's the demo site, Tanika? I'm glad you asked. The demo site basically is like a simulation of real FAFSA form. I want you to go in, especially if you're a new counselor or maybe some things might be changing about the FAFSA form, you want to go in and practice. I would happily go in and practice. Pretend that you're a student who is not a US citizen. What happens for them? Pretend that you're a student who doesn't have their parent information. What happens to that? That way you can see real time what their page will... what prompts pop up for them, what strategies come up for them. That way, when you have a specific question about, "Hey, I'm seeing this prompt," so we know exactly where to help you and we know exactly where you are. Okay?

This is a great opportunity for all counselors to be able to practice, so that way when their students says, "I'm seeing this," you're not like, "Oh, I don't know what to do." Right? You've already done a little bit of backtracking order. Okay? Now, there's other organizations to help with the FAFSA completion workshops as well, to help you on that, if you would like to host one this year. I hope that you do, because as you are very much aware, FAFSA can be challenging for some students and some families. You want to be able to support them through the journey. If you are able to host a FAFSA completion workshop, we highly recommend that you do.

Now, if you're saying, "Well, how can I get additional support for an event?" Oh, I'm so happy to share that we have a complete outreach event request form. If you would like myself, Maisha, my colleague, Isaiah, my supervisor, Fred, or anyone at Outreach Team to come do a virtual workshop like we're doing right now, or maybe, hopefully we'll get to be in person with all of you, and we host something in person, then you can request that here now. Please note, because we have a limited ability, we can't approve every request, however. We will make sure that we'll try our best to get you the resources that you need. If you are not approved for an event, we can't do your event, we will send you the materials that we think will be best for you to carry out your event in full detail.

But this is where you'll go to request for one of us to be a part of your event or to help out at your event. Please note, because we're a smaller team, we do have a recommendation that you at least have a minimum of 15 students for your workshops. Yes, we would love to help all three of you [inaudible 00:26:13] the workshop, but you

guys know how hard it could be to put things together. Please, if you have about 15 minimum participants for your event, then please make sure that you fill out the recourse, if that is what you would like to do. Let's move on to making a presentation. If you just said, "Okay, well, Tanika, we just talked about how to host an event," but that's different from making a presentation, right?

You want to make sure that you have all the right terminology, that you have all the right literature, everything that needs to happen in order for your presentation to go smoothly. We actually have some sample presentations for you. We have about filling out the FAFSA, we have a sample of how to do that. We even have processed graphics for you. Everything was made easy for you, so that way you can make the best of your presentation, and it looks like you work for one of us yeah? Just a joke, I know. Okay, so then let's talk about targeting your outreach, okay? Now we've talked about earlier, that all of you have different audiences.

Some of you have mentioned that you want to work directly with parents and parents have a lot of questions. Well, we do have a section just on parents. Then we have a section on adult students, military families, borrowers and non US citizens. Since so many of you asked about parents, let's see what kind of resources are there. When you go here for the parents, you'll be able to say how can parents make college more affordable? You might have questions about parents saying, "Well, how do I save up for college?" Or, "How do I get free money to help for college?" All of these things... or affordability. Maybe a lot of parents are asking about affordability.

The college scorecard is a great way for the students and the families to have a conversation about the cost of college, and the score card in terms of the benefits, the outreach of that school, or the strength of that school for the students who attend. Okay? Then you want to talk about some talking points that you'll give the student... I mean, the parents, and how you can find support for those parents? You're going to hear a lot of questions from parents asking about the direct plus loan. We have a whole section on the direct plus loan. All of these links go directly to the studentaid.gov pages. There, you can see every ounce of information. If you're having difficulty finding things on studentaid.gov, just come here. This website's for you anyway.

You can come here, click on the link and go exactly to the area that you need to help the parents answer any questions that they might have. Then you have your dependent status and you have your FAFSA form. Okay? All of these sites will have everything, based on the target audience that you would like. Now, let's move on because I know some of you are like, "I want to get to the resources," and I want to get there, too, okay? We're going to help you get there a little quicker, but there's one section that I really want to talk to you about. Our social media pages, they really do a lot of great work. If you are working with students who really take things in based on graphics, informational graphics, we do have a lot of great information that's on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

We've linked both of our pages here for you, so you can go directly to those pages. We also have linked our YouTube page. We do an incredible job breaking down topics like the SSA ID, or how to complete the FAFSA form, what you will need. If you're looking for

something like a video to input into an email, or to send to some students or families, then YouTube is a great resource to help do that. Then you have some federal student aid articles. 7 Things That You Need To Fill Out Your FAFSA Form. What is student loan forgiveness, and how can I help you pay your loan? Then talking about the help tool, how to use the public service loan forgiveness help tool, which we will talk in more details in a future webinar, but you want to make sure that at least you have some resources and tips for there.

Moving on, articles and emails. With the articles and emails, this is where you'll share everything that's about federal student aid resources and tips. Here's all the checklists we talked about earlier. Here's the difference deciding whether to take out a private student loan, and then gathering paperwork that you need for the FAFSA, everything is here. If you're looking for emails, you're looking for specific things that you need for your emails, this is the point where you want to use that, okay? Making sure that exactly where to find everything for articles and emails, it's all on that page.

Then you have your public service announcements. Okay, so talking about all your PSA announcements, so your TV, video ads, radio. If you have a suggestion or you would like to see if we can partner for any PSA announcements, please reach out to us. We'll be happy to talk to you further to get the word out about FAFSA and Federal Student Aid. Then last, but certainly not least, is the FSA Spotlight. That's right. This is where I really want to make sure that you're aware that we have this. This is where we allow for any of our partners who are doing anything related to FAFSA completion, to be able to be spotlighted. That's right. We tell their stories here. You have the ability to refer yourself, recommend yourself.

We review all of the nominations and then we select up to three to four, and then we'll put them and then Spotlight them here, but not only do we put them on this page, we also put them on our partner email list, so that everybody can see all the great work that you're doing and hear more about it. I wanted to share with this... you with this because we do have an upcoming Spotlight in September. We do it by monthly Spotlight, and the September Spotlight is on first-gen organization. If you are working specifically with first-gen students, and you have done some FAFSA completion work, then we encourage you to go ahead and submit your entrance form to be spotlighted.

You can find that Spotlight form here, and we will be looking for all of your nominations because so we know that you do great work. Okay, let's jump to Get Training. I thought of a couple of suggestions here on that. This is where you will get all kinds of training. Let's start with Federal Student Aid. See this is considered a training. Look at here, is today not July 27th? Yes, it absolutely is. You're in this right now. This talks about some upcoming trainings that we might have. You will also see any of the past webinars are really important, so the 2020 Federal Policy Updates. Please note we'll have an upcoming one for 2021. I will let you know that date at the end of this presentation, but we will have an update on this as well. You will also be able to search any of the tools and resources for any past webinars that we have had as well, okay?

Then you also have training by other state agencies and non-government agencies. If you are looking for additional support, additional resources and training on financial aid,

this is your first position in financial aid, then absolutely go to this site and you can see and brow all the opportunities for internet training. Then you have curriculum materials for trainers. This is high school counselors, TRIO, GEAR UP staff, college access advisors, there are specific workshops and training for you guys that we would love for you to have access to. That's going to be on our search and tools, and resources page, and then there's all of these additional resources as well that we want to make sure that you are aware of.

Now, let's get down to what you all have been asking me for, about, and that is resources. This is the key and the very last section for today's webinars, and this is called our Search Tools and Resources section. Now, here's the thing about this. You can literally find anything. When I say anything, I mean anything, okay? We're talking about articles, email content, if you're looking for a glossary. I saw somebody said handouts, right? I saw someone said they wanted a presentation. I saw someone say... scroll down. There's more options here. I saw someone say that they're looking for social media content. I saw someone say that they're looking for a webinar.

They're looking for a webinar. Well, that's on here as well. We've got templates here, we have everything. Training materials is here. Keep scrolling down. We have video, we have webinars. I'm just selecting all the ones that you could possibly want, and then we're going to see... and we're going to select done, okay? We've selected that we want a handout, we want a presentation, we want social media. Then we said, audience type. You can even narrow down the type of audience. If you're looking for a high school student, you're looking for a parent, you're looking for a non US citizen, a homeless student, a foster care student, you can literally select what you need.

Let's just do a high school student for now, and we'll also put parent in here because I know there was a lot of questions on that. Then you can even search by topic. I know a lot of you had questions about filling out the FAFSA, so we have FAFSA. You talked a little bit about, let's see, financial aid resources. We'll select that one as well. We're talking about receiving aid, might be another question that you might have. Okay, so we're just selecting all. I'm going to hit Get Resources. Let's see what happens. Here's how it breaks out. You will see, there'll be images with each one. You're going to see one that says... I got PDF image, and this will be your worksheet. This is all handout information.

Then you have a PowerPoint image, that's going to be all presentations. If you see this image, that means it's a presentation, a literally PowerPoint presentation that you can download and you can use. Look at that, it's 2021/2022. If you still have students who haven't completed the FASFA and they still need assistance, and you want to do a presentation on it, here you go, because it's just for you, right? Let's say, if you're looking for webinars, so, "Hey, Tanika, you did a webinar a few months ago that I loved and I would love to use it." It's here. That's right. Any past webinar that we have done this year and last year, you will see on this page, okay?

We always try to keep this up-to-date. Even this presentation I'm doing with you right now will show up on the page in a couple of weeks as well. You want to be able to go back to here and say, "Hey, she covered Financial Aid Toolkit. It wasn't exactly where..."

remember where she told me to look for that." You can just push a replay, okay, and you can alphabetically see it. You also have the application for Federal Student Aid PDF, the 2021/22 versions here. You also have the preview for the presentation. You have college financing plans. You have a step-by-step guide for the financial aid process. You also have your dependent/independent resources.

I know many of you ask about what you do if you don't have... if your student doesn't have specific information, that will be in this webinar as well. Let me scroll up. It will be the Step By Step Guide for Your Federal Financial Aid Process Webinar, that information in there. We also have some information on dependency status video on an independent or a dependent, and it will talk specifically about information that's needed for each one. It also talks about what happens if you don't have that information. Then it also talks about resources for Native Americans, undocumented students, drive your career, how to fill out the FAFSA, so we talked about that FAFSA demo site, right?

This is great because they have the full video on you fill out the FAFSA form, and it also has Spanish caption videos. The video will play in English, but the captions will be in Spanish if you need this video for Spanish speaking families. Then you have your loan simulator. I mean, there's so much here, right? There's so much here. Look, we've got some of our sample posts that we've had from Next Gen. We even have additional information about the overview of the financial aid process.

If you are at the beginning stages and you want to help students understand the financial aid process as a whole, there's a video for that. Just like there's an app for that, there's a video for that, right? Well, there's Top Five Tips to Complete the FAFSA, Understanding the FAFSA. All of those things are here. If you're looking for anything specific to how to find information, "Now, what happens, Tanika, if I've looked through all these and still can't find information to help a student who doesn't have their parents' tax estimations."

I would highly recommend going to studentaid.gov, okay? On studentaid.gov is where they will say how you would go about completing. Now, if they complete... they still complete the form if they don't have a tax information, it just might impact the aid that they might receive, and it will show up as an alert, okay? It'll show up on alert for any institution that they apply to, which means that the institution will say, "Hey, there's some missing information." They're going to ask your student about it. Your student should always respond to that email or to that phone call, whatever the school prefers, and they will talk about how to verify that they in fact cannot get their parent information, and they can process the financial aid.

There is a way to move through the process of the FAFSA form. If you need more details on than that, again, I highly recommend going back to a past webinar which talks specifically about that area. Now, I'm going to go back to where you guys put in information. You guys are filling this up. Okay, so we talked about dependency questions. We talked about undocumented student resources. You saw there's a handout on just specifically undocumented student. Resources to help with FAFSA. We've got videos, we've got handouts, we've got pamphlets, short video tutorials. Yes, we have all the videos there. We've got presentations you can download. Best practices

for reconciliation, that's a good topic, and I think you can find that also on the tools and resources.

If it's not, then it's definitely on a studentaid.gov page. Understand correct tax filing status for students. Great question. There is a section on tax filing on studentaid.gov for the resources, but you can also find some tips here about the type of tax information that you need. There is a resources on the Tools or Resources section that talks about the different type of tax information that you actually need. How things will change for students of the new pandemic year. That's more of a webinar question. You won't necessarily see tools of that. However, and I'm going to go back to the page so you can see, I want you to be aware of this. Anything that's new or upcoming about the FASFA... right. Open. Okay, great.

Anything that's new about the FASFA or the financial aid process when you go to the... you see the FAFSA process, and it says FAFSA Updates. You might use... There's a question like is there anything different for students to be considerate of for this upcoming year? As you can see, changes to this FAFSA form will be here. Any availability for FAFSA materials and websites will be here. The 2022/23 FAFSA materials and websites are going to be here. You're probably thinking, "Whoa, they have the 2022 up?" You might want to go check this out. You might want to go check this out, see this on Materials and Websites, just so you can be aware of some things that might be changing, and some things that might help you with assisting with students, okay?

You are going to scroll down, you'll see that there's PDFs in English and Spanish. There's worksheets, there's student aid report samples. I didn't see a question about a student aid report, but this is a very important thing. You want students to know exactly what their student aid report says. You have access to the demo site right here. You have screenshots, and you even have previews on my, My Student Aid App. So far we've talked of everything on the computer, but please know that we do have a mobile app that students can complete their FAFSA on, and then they can complete it there. They can save it up to 45 days, whether on desktop or on the app. Then they can also complete it on the vice versa app.

If you start on the app, then you could finish on a computer and vice versa. You start on the computer, you can finish on an app. We also have the EFC Formula Guide. Many of you have said, "Oh, the EFC is going away, there might be some new changes." Well, right now it's here, right? You might want to think, what's the formula guide here? You have those things. You have Federal School Code List is here. There's so many resources are right here on this page. When it comes to FAFSA, for any updates or new things to be considered of, this site is always updated. When I say always, literally checked on every week, every week to ensure that everything's up to date for all of you. You will never feel as if all this information is out if you don't have it, okay?

You will always be one of the very first to know about changes because we want you to be equipped so that you can help as many students and families as possible. Okay, let's go back to see if there's anything else, and if not, then I can finish the rest of the presentation with Tools and Resources. We'll talk about anything else that might need. Okay, so we talked about resources, tax information for students not living with parents.

Great, great, great. That would be that independent/dependent section there, you see. If they're not considered an independent student, they will also talk about other things that you should be aware of, so you definitely want to check out that search tools, resources for dependent and independent status. They will talk a little bit about that as well.

Also, on studentaid.gov, there's a whole page on that one example. Okay. Okay, so let's move on, look forward. Thank you so much for participating. That was our very first time we were live calling, and you guys rocked it. Okay, you guys absolutely rocked it. We look forward to see if you guys loved it as well, so please fill out that survey at the end so you can let us know if you loved this strategy, if it was helpful for you, or if you felt that it was... if there's anything else that you would like to see. Let's talk about Federal Student Aid Tools and Resources. Again, we are all over social media. We want you to be there and join us as well.

We have our Facebook page here, and we have a LinkedIn page, we have an Instagram page. We're on YouTube and we're on Twitter. If you have any questions, everything that we post, you can use. If there's a infographic that you really want, you can go ahead and use it. Anything that's on our pages, you can use for your resources or for your presentations. You also have our number. You can always call us at 1-800-4-FED-AID for any questions that you might have regarding the site or any resources that you might need, okay? As I promised, I talked about the next webinar, and guess what? The Federal Policy Updates, the next webinar is August 25th, so you absolutely don't want to miss it.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or you're a newcomer, Federal Policy Update is major. You need to know what is coming up, so please mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 25th from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, that's Eastern time, so that way you can join us and you can know everything even before the school year starts. We heard your feedback and we're making sure that you get all the resources as possible. Now it's time for you to receive your feedback. Here is a link. You'll also this email, but please know, go ahead and see this link. You go to surveyMonkey.com/r/FSAtoolkit21. Okay? That's surveyMonkey.com/r/FSAtoolkit21. With that being said, I'm going to turn it back over to Maisha for any questions that may arise. Thank you so much.

Maisha: Wow. Thanks Tanika. That was so informative. You all learned so much, and I feel like, based on the amazing feedback from Menti, you all have so many different ideas about how you can reach your students and families, and you want resources. Today was a clear indication that the Financial Aid Toolkit has a variety of different resources for you. The different sections, learn about financial aid, conducting outreach, getting training, and then searching for tools and resources.

I was also paying attention to all of the responses we received from Menti, and there was obviously so... so many people want to know, and you all affirmed about all these changes that may occur. Tanika shared with you where you can go on the toolkit website to find those changes. We also have an announcement section that provides information as well. Tanika, you know what I wanted to actually ask you? If we could actually share the URL for The Financial Aid Toolkit. What is the website URL?

Tanika: Absolutely. The website is federalstudentaidtoolkit.ed.gov, all one word. [Federalstudentaid.ed...](https://federalstudentaid.ed.gov) toolkit, sorry. [Federalstudentaidtoolkit.ed.gov](https://federalstudentaidtoolkit.ed.gov).

Maisha: Great. The Financial Aid Toolkit, it is a financial aid tool kit, so you can type in Financial Aid Toolkit in Google and it'll come right up so that where to find it in case... That's a long word, right? [Financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov), just putting Financial Aid Toolkit. It'll come right up. You all have heard about... I saw one of the responses was is selective services going away? EFC is going away. You all have heard about this being replaced by the Student Aid Index. Well, listen. Right now, as Tanika mentioned, there are things still in place, and we are still in the '21/22 FAFSA cycle, but the '22/23 cycle is upon us, right?

Any and everything that you need to know is available on The Financial Aid Toolkit website, whether you're a beginner, whether you're an intermediate individual that knows a little bit about financial aid, but wants to know more, or whether you're advanced, you feel like you can help students and families, but you want tutorials. I saw that people are like, how-to videos? A lot of that information is available as part of our search engine on that last section of our website. This has been so amazing, and Tanika, it has been really great to hear all of the resources that are available to individuals at any level, whether it's someone who's a new counselor.

Maybe this is your first year working with high school students and families, and you're not sure where to go. This is a great site. Or, you've been working... I thought it was great to see the years of experience that we saw. We had a variety of individuals, but a lot of people had nine plus years, some people were right in the middle and some people were brand new. We absolutely encourage you all to visit this website. This particular webinar will be recorded and actually available under the search engine for Tools and Resources.

Just like Tanika says, infographics, PowerPoint presentations. Webinars are also part of that search engine tool. Please visit there, and this webinar will be available in about one to two weeks. The PDF version of the slides we will send out right after this presentation, along with a brief survey, and the demo site. The demo site is so critical, and Tanika, thank you so much for sharing about it, because that's going to help you practice if you're unfamiliar with the FAFSA form, or if you are familiar, but you just want to go through different scenarios.

The toolkit is amazing. For the new FAFSA cycle, the '22/23, that demo site will be available in September, but if you want to fill out the 2122 demo site, or want to practice, it is available now on the toolkit. Tanika, we haven't gotten you... well, we do have a couple of questions. How do we know when to apply to be spotlighted in the partner Spotlight? That's one of the questions. You mentioned the partner Spotlight. Can you elaborate a little bit more about it, please?

Tanika: Absolutely. Thank you so much for asking. Let's go straight there. There is a monthly process, so you can complete it as long as it's a month before. September, we're looking for all nominations by August. We're always looking for the mid of the month. Always try to do it by the 15th of whatever that month cycle is, so that way we could review, select and make sure everything is together. In order to talk about the monthly partner

Spotlight, as you can see here, you can see all the different topics. January was on metropolitan cities, February we did faith based organizations.

March we did intellectual disability organizations, April's federal financial literacy or repayment organization. May is our foster student organization, June is eligible non-citizen organizations, July incarcerated parents, probation, criminal conviction organizations, August is our homeless organizations, and September is our first-generation organization. If you are currently a first-gen organization and you would like to be spotlighted, please submit your request by August 15th so that we could consider you for this upcoming release.

Maisha: Thanks Tanika. The partner Spotlight is a really great way, as Tanika has mentioned to showcase the amazing work that a lot of you are doing. I actually had a colleague of mine reach out to me that's heard about the Spotlight. Please, if you're interested, click on that link and you are able to... and Tanika is showing you as a screenshot where you can actually showcase and be spotlighted as part of our FSA Spotlight on our Financial Aid Toolkit website. Let's see. I answered the question. Oh, here's a great question, Tanika. Someone asked how is The Financial Aid Toolkit different than studentaid.gov? Can you elaborate on that, please?

Tanika: Absolutely. Studentaid.gov is going to be your resources that link directly to specific entities, right? They will not have your checklists, your handouts, any direct information that's going to be quick. Remember, this studentaid.gov is open to all people to access. That can be parents, can be a loan servicer. It could be anyone, right? But Federal Financial Aid Toolkit is only specifically for counselors and mentors, which means that we're going to put the most up to date, the most helpful information here, so that way you can use it to share with your students.

We will always link additional information back to our studentaid.gov site for additional support, or answer specific questions about the FAFSA, but when you're looking for some tangible materials that helps give a parent, or help give a student, or help them to either read, to look at it or to watch even of a video, then this is the page you want to go. You cannot get that on studentaid.gov.

Maisha: Thanks Tanika. Studentaid.gov is specifically for students and parents. Once you have been providing resources to those families, you want to send them to that website. Tanika, there are no more questions. We want to just thank you so much for this amazing information you've provided us today, and how interactive and insightful hearing from our audience. We like that. That's what we want. This isn't just for us to share with you. We want to hear what you are looking for. That way it can help us make a better experience for all of you attending, and the general public who we're trying to serve. Tanika, thank you so much again for this wonderful information.

As mentioned earlier, we will be recording this presentation. It will be available on the Financial Aid Toolkit in one to two weeks. We will also be sending you the PDF with the PowerPoint slides and a brief survey. Our next webinar, as Tanika mentioned, that is definitely one that you do not want to miss, is our Federal Policy Update on Wednesday, August 25th. We don't have a link yet, but we promise that if you are signed that our

partner emails, we will send you the link and we will also send you the link separately later on, once the link is available. Once again, it's our Federal Policy Update, so save the date. We will also be conducting another boot camp.

Some of you that maybe participated in our boot camp in April, we are also conducting a boot camp in October, and we want your feedback about topics. If you have not signed up for our party emails, I will share that link with you all in our email. Sign up, and we'd love to get your feedback as well on topics for our boot camp in October. With that being said, we're going to sign off. We so appreciate your participation today. Tanika, as always, thank you so much for giving us an amazing presentation. We look forward to your participation in August. Have a great day everyone and be safe. Bye-bye.

Speaker 1: That concludes our conference. Thank you for using Event Services. You may now disconnect.