

CITY OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF THE  
**CITY CLERK**

MIGUEL DEL VALLE, CITY CLERK

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## **City Clerk del Valle Offers Free FAFSA Assistance to Get More Students Into College**

*Study Finds that Students Who Complete the FAFSA are 50% More Likely to Attend Four-Year College*

Chicago Public School students who do not fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form have higher costs in tuition and are less likely to enroll in a four-year college according to a research study just released by the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago.<sup>1</sup>

“Every year, thousands of dollars of financial aid marked for students is unclaimed because students do not complete and submit these forms,” said City Clerk del Valle. “That is why I am providing FAFSA preparation assistance so our kids go to college where they can earn the bright future they deserve.”

This free service is offered every Tuesday evening at City Clerk del Valle’s office through April 8<sup>th</sup>. Prospective college students and parents are encouraged to visit City Clerk del Valle’s office in Room 107 of City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., on Tuesday evenings from 5:30–7:30 p.m. to receive one-on-one assistance to complete the FAFSA form. No appointment is necessary.

The FAFSA form is required for all students seeking grants, work-study opportunities, or student loans. Students interested in attending a university, community college, or technical program may be eligible to receive more than \$10,000 in grants for their higher education.

FAFSA assistance at City Clerk del Valle’s office is offered in partnership with the Tax Assistance Program and is a free service that will be provided to anyone. **There are no income restrictions for students and families who need financial aid form assistance.** Students should bring the most recent copy of their own tax return and that of their parents (if the student is being supported by their parents) and should also have the birthdates and Social Security Numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) for themselves and their parents. Therefore, it is recommended that parents accompany their student to the financial aid form session.

Submitting the FAFSA is the first step in applying for financial aid for higher education. It is used in applying for student aid programs, including Pell Grants, Stafford Loans and campus-based programs. The FAFSA collects the information required to determine need and eligibility for financial aid. In addition to FAFSA assistance, informational materials for the College Illinois! 529 Tuition Program will also be available.

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<sup>1</sup> Consortium on Chicago School Research at University of Chicago, Executive Summary “From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College” March 2008



*About City Clerk del Valle*

Miguel del Valle was elected as Clerk of the City of Chicago in 2007. City Clerk del Valle's office is responsible for maintaining official city government records, issuing city licenses, and distributing approximately 1.3 million vehicle stickers. City Clerk del Valle is bringing more efficiency and visibility to City Clerk services by providing greater access to public records including web casting of City Council meetings, expanding community outreach programs, modernizing operations to expedite the sale of dog registration and city stickers. [www.ChiCityClerk.com](http://www.ChiCityClerk.com)

*About the Tax Assistance Program*

The Tax Assistance Program is a fast-paced entrepreneurial nonprofit organization dedicated to providing innovative and free financial services to hardworking, low-income families. TAP enables working families to claim tax credits and refunds as well as overcome barriers to mainstream financial resources by linking skilled volunteer professionals to their communities. For more information about the services offered by the Tax Assistance Program, please visit <http://www.taxassistance.org> or call (312) 458-9105.

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