

City Clerk's Office To Help with Student Aid

City Clerk Miguel del Valle is partnering with the Tax Assistance Program to provide free assistance for individuals filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

Prospective college students and parents are encouraged to visit the city clerk's office in Room 107 of City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays to receive one-on-one assistance to complete the FAFSA form.

This free service will be offered every Tuesday evening at City Clerk del Valle's office through April 8. 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.

"Every year, thousands of dollars of financial aid marked for students is

unclaimed because students do not complete and submit these forms," said del Valle. "Some people assume they are not eligible because of their income level, while others may be intimidated by the application's worksheets.

"But the reality is that most students are eligible for some form of financial aid, and help is available. I strongly urge anyone planning to enroll in college to take advantage of the services offered by the Tax Assistance Program."

FAFSA form assistance at City Clerk del Valle's office is a free service that will be provided to anyone, and 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 birth dates and Social Security Numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers for

themselves and their parents.

Therefore, it is recommended that parents accompany their children to the financial aid form session.

"Thanks to City Clerk del Valle, parents and students can now get help applying for financial aid at City Hall," said Robert Burke, founder, chairman and CEO of TAP. "We are thrilled to work with City Clerk del Valle, who understands the importance of education."

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.