

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

MIGUEL DEL VALLE

For Immediate Release  
January 29, 2009

Contact: Daveda Peeler  
312-744-2507

**City Clerk del Valle Offers Free Assistance with Student Aid  
Applications: Students May Be Eligible For More Than \$10,000!**

*City Clerk del Valle and Ladder Up partner to assist students  
and families with the FAFSA application*

Once again, City Clerk Miguel del Valle is partnering with Ladder Up (formerly the Tax Assistance Program) to provide free assistance for individuals filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Beginning February 3<sup>rd</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. This free service will be offered every Tuesday evening at City Clerk del Valle's office through April 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 City Clerk 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 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 Ladder Up," added City Clerk del Valle.

FAFSA form assistance at City Clerk del Valle's office 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 tax return and any asset information they may have. If a student is being supported by his/her parent(s), the student should also have the tax return, Social Security Number (if applicable), and the birthdates of his/her parents. Therefore, it is recommended that parents accompany their student 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 M. Burke, Founder, Chairman and CEO of TAP. "We are thrilled to work with 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!



###

*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 licensed, 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 registrations, city stickers and residential parking. [www.ChiCityClerk.com](http://www.ChiCityClerk.com)

*About Ladder Up*

Ladder Up is a Chicago-based nonprofit committed to helping hardworking families secure the financial resources and assistance they need to climb up the economic ladder. By recruiting 1,800 of the area's top business, law, and finance professionals to serve as volunteers, Ladder Up offers free tax help through its Tax Assistance Program (TAP) and free financial aid form and banking assistance through its Life-Improving Financial Tools (LIFT) program. For more information about Ladder Up's free services, please visit [goladderup.org](http://goladderup.org) or call (312) 409-1555.