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Secretary

FAFSA Completion Initiative
Certification Required for Participation by Non-Profit College Access
Organizations in the FAFSA Completion Initiative

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to launch the FAFSA Completion Initiative in Maryland. The FAFSA Completion Initiative is an initiative that allows high school districts, high schools, local educational agencies (LEAs), and certain designated entities access to limited FAFSA information for Maryland students in order to help those students complete their FAFSAs.

In accordance to Federal Student Aid requirements, certain non-profit college access organizations may be classified as a “designated entity” eligible to participate in the FAFSA Completion Initiative. To participate, the non-profit organization must have an “established relationship” with a student. An established relationship exists between a student and a designated entity when the student is enrolled in, has registered with, or is receiving services from the designated entity in the purist of postsecondary education.

By completing this form, you attest that the below criteria is true and applicable to your organization for the purposes of participating in the FAFSA Completion Initiative in the State of Maryland. The Maryland Higher Education Commission reserves the right to monitor and review the eligibility to participate of the non-profit college access organization noted on this form.

Initial all that apply:

- The nonprofit organization is, and continues to be, designated as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The nonprofit organization has as part of its mission a stated and demonstrated commitment to promoting college access and a record of legitimacy and reliability.
- The nonprofit organization provides its services primarily to economically disadvantaged clients.
- The nonprofit organization does not charge students, families, other clients, or schools for any of its services.

_____ Neither the nonprofit organization itself, nor any of its affiliates or its parent organization, if any, has been administratively or judicially formally accused of committing or determined to have committed fraud or any other material violation of law involving Federal, state, or local government funds.

_____ The nonprofit organization hereby certifies that each of the above criteria has been met and that the nonprofit organization will immediately notify the state grant agency, in writing, if it does not or cannot continue to meet any of those criteria.

For Designated Entity:

I hereby certify and attest that the information and representations made herein are accurate and true. I warrant that I am authorized to make this certification on behalf of the entity noted below

Printed Name and Title
of Chief Executive Officer

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Name of Organization

Date