

Fall 2024 Webinar Series

PAYING FOR

INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION



PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION

Welcome!

- [Full Fall 2024 Webinar Series](#)
- Q&A time allotted throughout
- Brief feedback survey directly following
- Video recording & resources will be emailed tomorrow



Today's Presenters

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Who We Are



IN! exists to create **inclusive** college opportunities in Colorado for students with intellectual disability (ID) to foster **academic growth, social development, career advancement, & independence.**

What We Do:

EDUCATION

OUTREACH

EXPANSION

OUTCOMES

*IN! does not provide direct services on campus

Agenda

1

**College
Options in CO
for Students
with ID**

2

**Paying for
Inclusive
Higher
Education**

3

**Resources to
Help Cover
Costs**

4

**Colorado
ABLE**

1



2



3



4

**College
Options in CO
for Students
with ID**

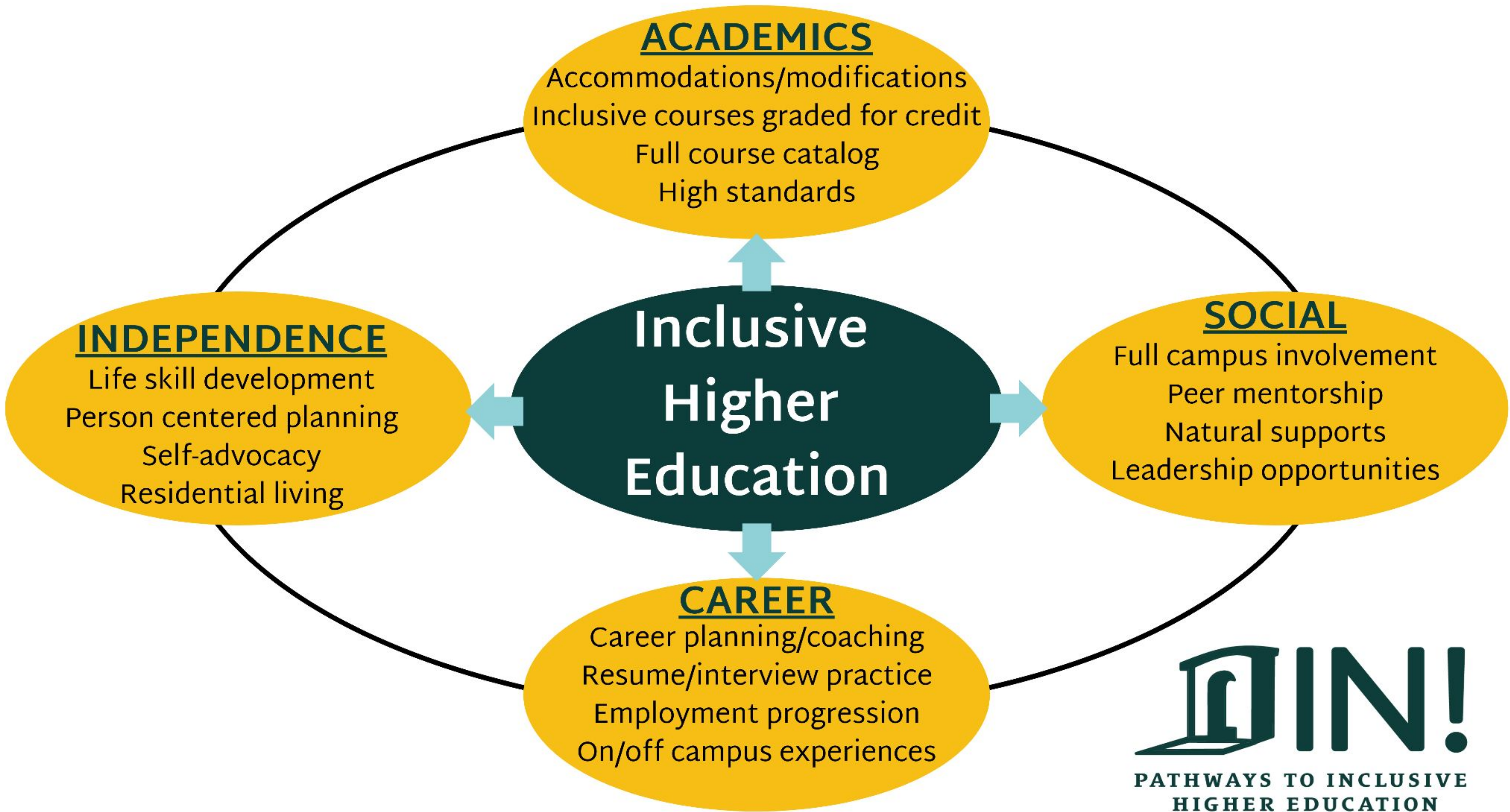
**Paying for
Inclusive
Higher
Education**

**Resources to
Help Cover
Costs**

**Colorado
ABLE**

What is Inclusive Higher Education?

- Alternative admission pathway for students with intellectual disability*
- Fully inclusive & normative
- Students take courses that align with career goal
- Access accommodations and modifications
- Earn certificate credential
- Participate in career readiness and independent living
- Staff and peer mentor support in 4 domains:





- Office of Inclusive Services (OIS)
- University of Colorado
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- **On campus living**
- 4 years
- inclusiveservices.uccs.edu

*Accredited inclusive postsecondary program!



- Elevate
- Arapahoe Community College
- Littleton, Colorado
- **Commuter Campus**
- 3 years
- arapahoe.edu/elevate-acc



- GLOBAL Inclusive Program
- Regis University
- Denver, Colorado
- **On campus living**
- 1-3 years
- regis.edu/global



- GOAL – Go On And Learn
- University of Northern Colorado
- Greeley, Colorado
- **On campus living**
- 4 years
- unco.edu/unc-goal

→ Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary Program (CTP) = Financial Aid
 → Statewide Comprehensive Higher Education Certificate = Meaningful Outcome
 → Admission for Fall semester opens the prior winter/spring





- CSU RAM Scholars
- Colorado State University
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- Experiential learning and agriculture focus
- 4 years
- <https://www.chhs.colorado.state.edu/ramsolars/>



- Inclusive Higher Education Solutions
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Denver, Colorado
- **Commuter Campus**
- 4 years
- msudenver.edu/IHES



- Launching Fall 2025
- Cultivate@LCC
- Lamar Community College
- Lamar, Colorado
- Program specifics coming soon



- Launching Fall 2025
- ASPIRE Scholars
- Pikes Peak State College
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Program specifics coming soon

→CTP in progress
→Statewide Comprehensive Higher Education Certificate



Questions?

1



2



3



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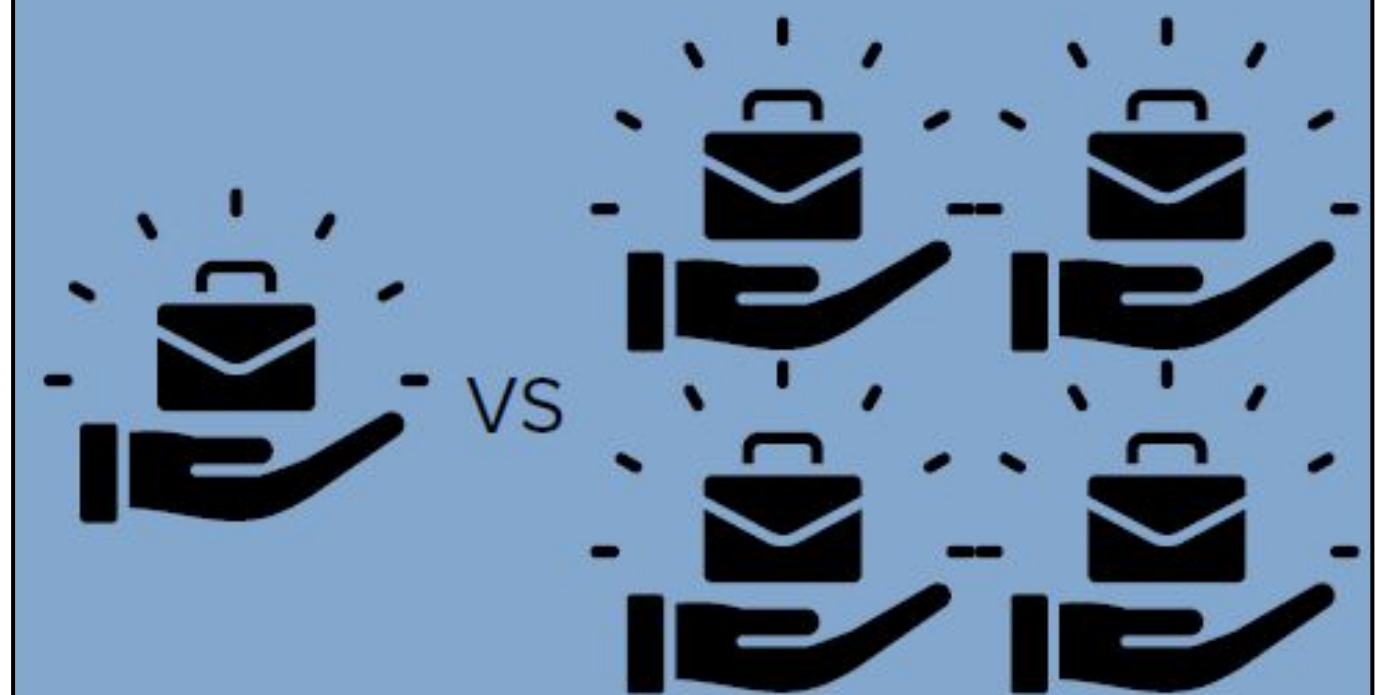
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What is the Financial Reality?

- **Normative Investment:** College costs money for all students
- **Worthwhile:** College allows individuals with ID to earn more after graduation
- **Over Time:** Many families need more time to prepare financially

Is college worth it?

People with IDD can be up to 4X more likely to be employed after completing a higher education program. ([Avellone, Camden, Taylor, Wehman, 2021](#))



College offers lifelong learning, community engagement, and a fulfilling future!

Click photo to read cited study

General Financial Information

- Tuition and fees
 - same cost/credit
 - fewer credits
- Program fee for inclusive services
 - vary by school
 - ranges from \$3,000-\$20,000 per school year
- Room and board, if applicable
 - vary by school
 - ranges from \$11,000-\$20,000 per school year



NOTE:

- See school websites or contact school staff for specifics
- IN! does not receive tuition from schools/students



**College
Options in CO
for Students
with ID**



**Paying for
Inclusive
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Education**



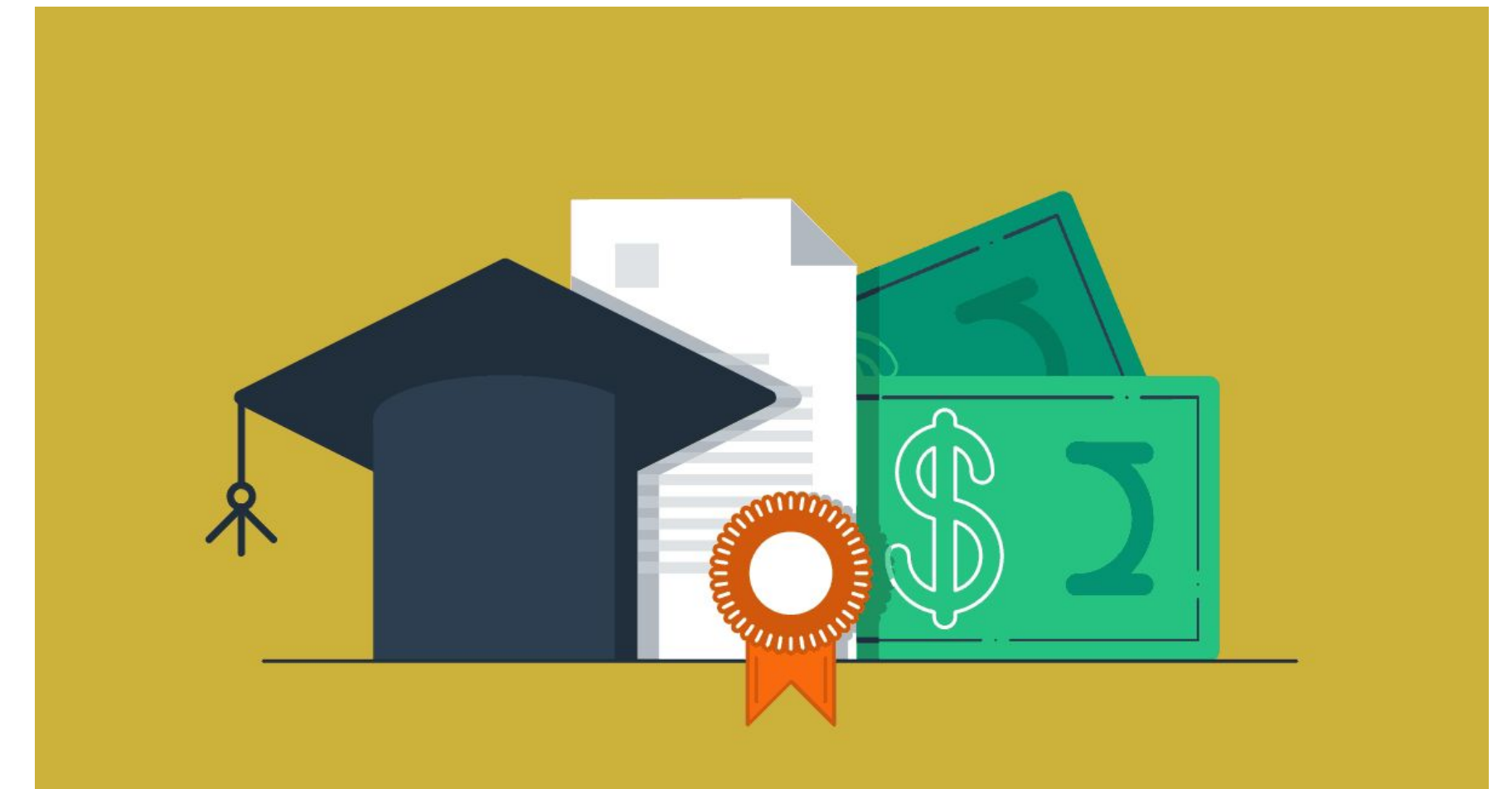
**Resources to
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Federal Financial Aid

- 3 kinds of federal financial aid available to students in IHE programs
 - Federal Pell Grants
 - Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
 - Federal Work Study Program
- Not eligible for federal loans due to certificate outcome



Federal Financial Aid Cont.

- Families must fill out Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#))
- Common misconceptions about FAFSA
 - “My family doesn’t have need!”
 - “It’s not worth the effort!”
- Amounts can change each year and vary depending on many factors



ISSUE NO. 45
2023 update

Federal Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability

by Cate Weir (adapted from Boyle, 2012)

INTRODUCTION

Provisions in the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), passed in 2008, make it possible for students with intellectual disability (ID) who demonstrate financial need to take advantage of some kinds of federal financial aid to help pay for college. The HEOA describes a new type of college program, called a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP), that is specifically for students with ID. Students with ID attending approved CTP are not required to have earned a standard high school diploma or be accepted into a degree program. With these provisions, if a student with intellectual disability is attending an approved Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP), they can apply for financial aid to help pay for the cost of attendance at that program, even if they do not meet these two requirements.

Features of a Comprehensive Transition Program

An institution of higher education must apply to become a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) to be able to award federal financial aid to students with ID. The application to become a CTP asks the institution to describe how the program meets the requirements outlined in the HEOA. The program must explain how it works with students with ID to access college courses with students without disabilities, participate in campus life, and achieve employment. Additional questions analyze how the program assesses student satisfactory academic progress, how it advises students, and what is required to achieve the credential awarded by the program.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

While these two requirements are waived, these four criteria must be met to receive federal financial aid under these special provisions:


The student must have a documented intellectual disability as defined by the HEOA.

Student with an intellectual disability means a student—

- (1) With a cognitive impairment characterized by significant limitations in
 - (i) Intellectual and cognitive functioning; and
 - (ii) Adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills; and
- (2) Who is currently, or was formerly, eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1401), including a student who was determined eligible for special education or related services under the IDEA but was home-schooled or attended private school.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1091, 1140)

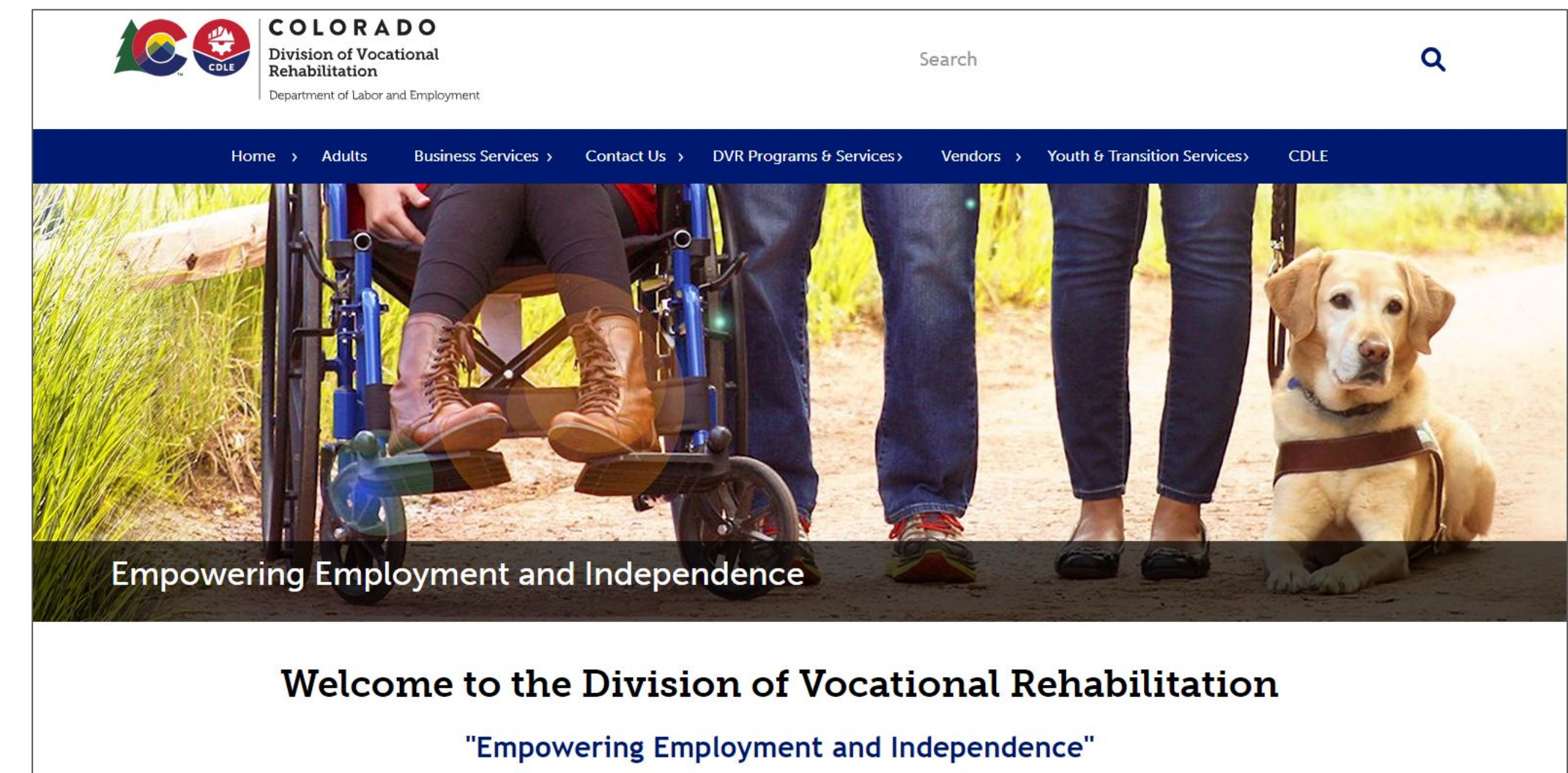
- The student must be attending an approved Comprehensive Transition Program. This means the college or university hosting the program has received approval from the Department of Education to offer financial aid to eligible students. A list of approved Comprehensive Transition Programs can be found here: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/intellectual-disabilities>
- The student must have exited high school. Students who are still receiving special education or other services from their high school are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- The student and their family must demonstrate financial need via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) All students who wish to access financial aid must complete the FAFSA. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

 Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston
www.ThinkCollege.net

Click photo to read Think College’s 2023 resource, “Federal Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability”

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

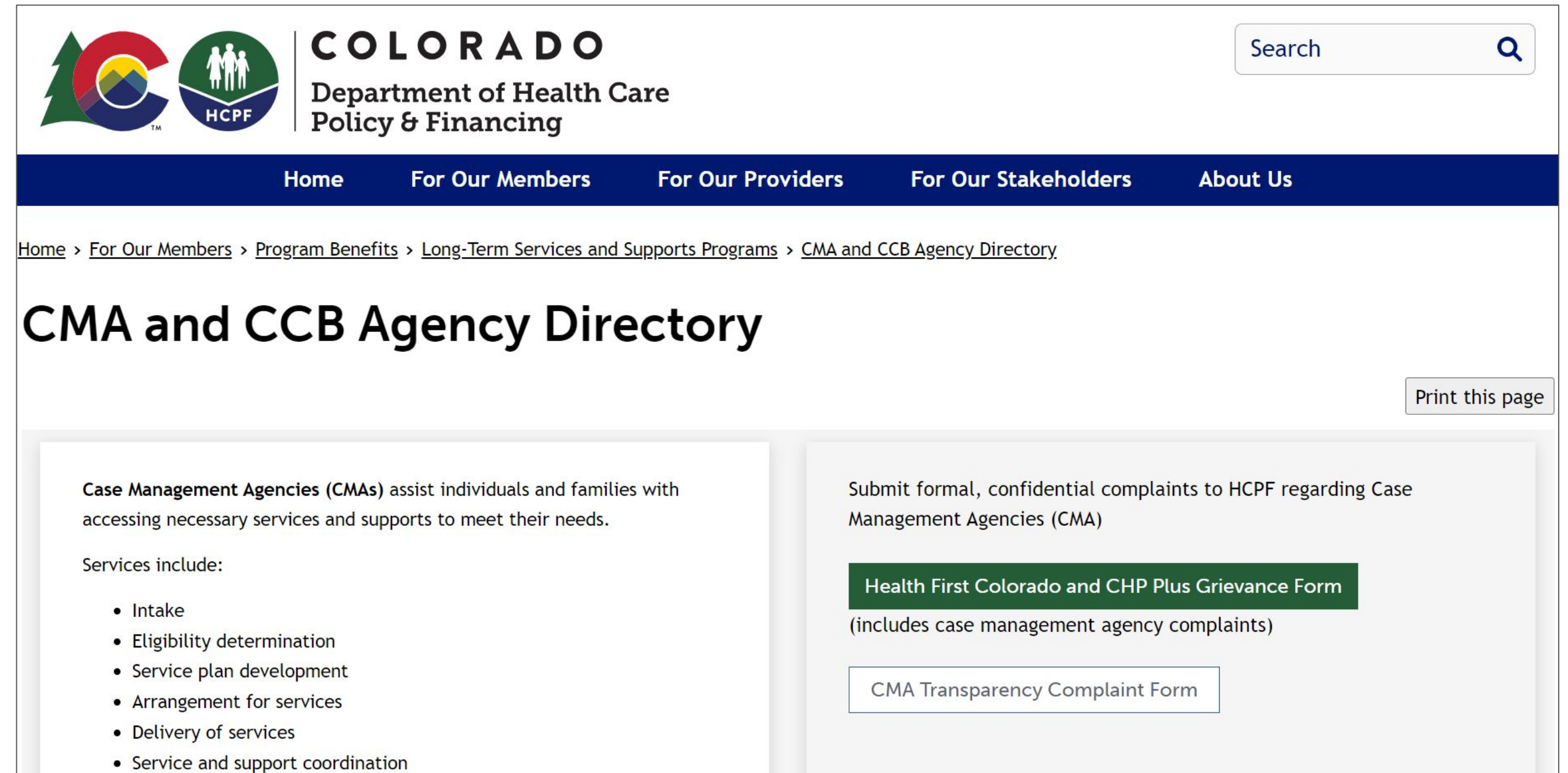
- DVR can provide funding for CTPs:
 - Connect with DVR counselor
 - Identify Inclusive Higher Ed as necessary for career goal
 - Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Individualized based on family need
- Connect with DVR [at this link](#)



Click photo to to visit DVR's Website

Case Management Agencies (CMAs)

- *Some* offer “Self-Determination Funds,” “Unmet Needs Funds,” or other scholarship funds if requested
- Most common in CMAs with mill levy funding



The screenshot shows the website for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF). The page is titled "CMA and CCB Agency Directory" and includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a list of services provided by Case Management Agencies (CMAs). The services listed are: Intake, Eligibility determination, Service plan development, Arrangement for services, Delivery of services, and Service and support coordination. There are also links to "Health First Colorado and CHP Plus Grievance Form" and "CMA Transparency Complaint Form".

COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Search

Home For Our Members For Our Providers For Our Stakeholders About Us

Home > For Our Members > Program Benefits > Long-Term Services and Supports Programs > CMA and CCB Agency Directory

CMA and CCB Agency Directory

Print this page

Case Management Agencies (CMAs) assist individuals and families with accessing necessary services and supports to meet their needs.

Services include:

- Intake
- Eligibility determination
- Service plan development
- Arrangement for services
- Delivery of services
- Service and support coordination

Submit formal, confidential complaints to HCPF regarding Case Management Agencies (CMA)

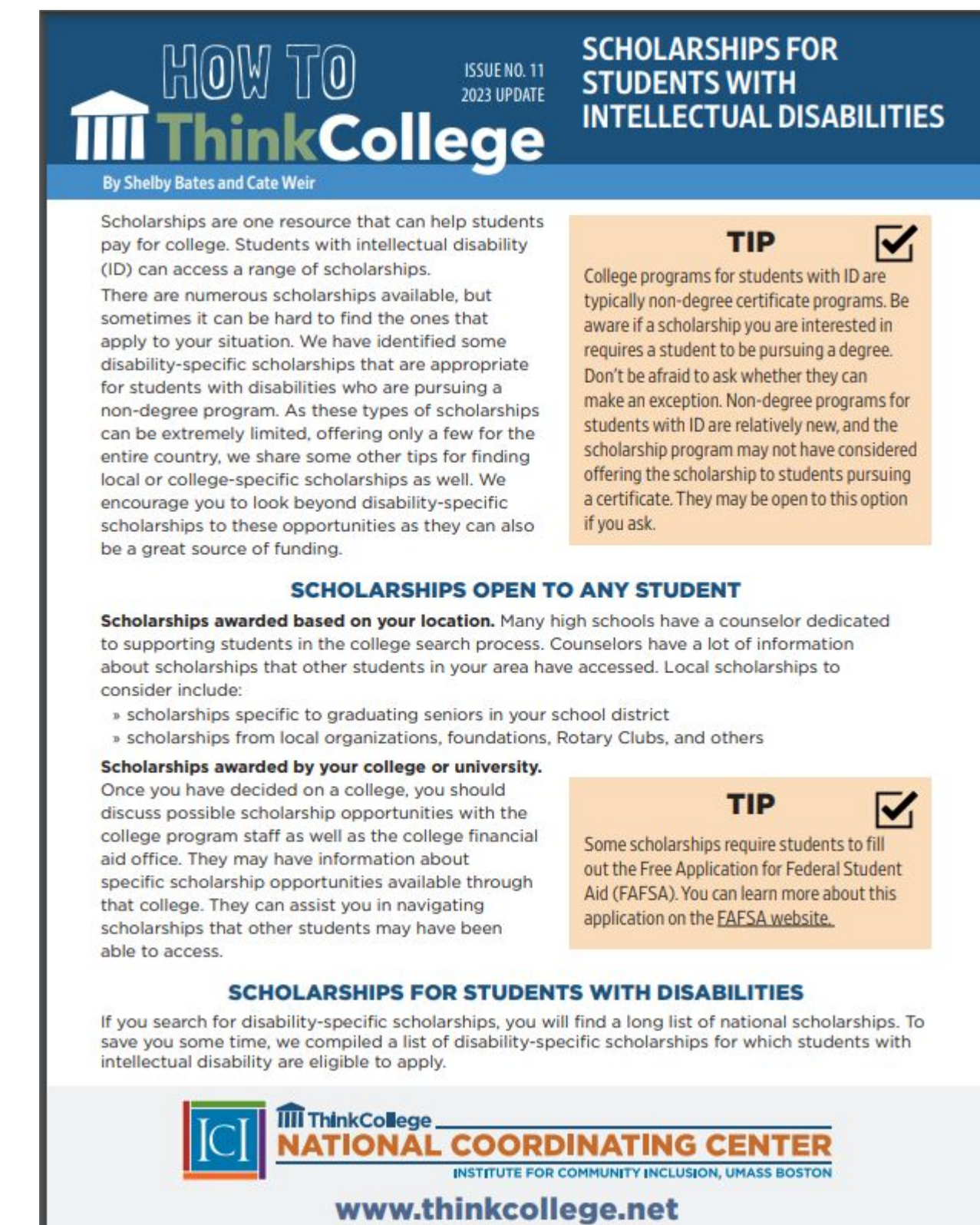
Health First Colorado and CHP Plus Grievance Form
(includes case management agency complaints)

CMA Transparency Complaint Form

Click photo to learn more about CMAs and find yours

Scholarships

- IHE/School Scholarships
 - UCCS: Nick Harmon Inclusive Scholarship Fund
- Specific disability-based
 - Ruby's Rainbow (Down syndrome)
- Scholarships from local organizations
 - Colorado Springs Down Syndrome Association
- [Big Future Scholarships Matcher](#)
- [Scholarship Search by Sallie](#)



HOW TO ThinkCollege ISSUE NO. 11
2023 UPDATE **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**
By Shelby Bates and Cate Weir

Scholarships are one resource that can help students pay for college. Students with intellectual disability (ID) can access a range of scholarships. There are numerous scholarships available, but sometimes it can be hard to find the ones that apply to your situation. We have identified some disability-specific scholarships that are appropriate for students with disabilities who are pursuing a non-degree program. As these types of scholarships can be extremely limited, offering only a few for the entire country, we share some other tips for finding local or college-specific scholarships as well. We encourage you to look beyond disability-specific scholarships to these opportunities as they can also be a great source of funding.

TIP
College programs for students with ID are typically non-degree certificate programs. Be aware if a scholarship you are interested in requires a student to be pursuing a degree. Don't be afraid to ask whether they can make an exception. Non-degree programs for students with ID are relatively new, and the scholarship program may not have considered offering the scholarship to students pursuing a certificate. They may be open to this option if you ask.

SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO ANY STUDENT

Scholarships awarded based on your location. Many high schools have a counselor dedicated to supporting students in the college search process. Counselors have a lot of information about scholarships that other students in your area have accessed. Local scholarships to consider include:


- » scholarships specific to graduating seniors in your school district
- » scholarships from local organizations, foundations, Rotary Clubs, and others

Scholarships awarded by your college or university. Once you have decided on a college, you should discuss possible scholarship opportunities with the college program staff as well as the college financial aid office. They may have information about specific scholarship opportunities available through that college. They can assist you in navigating scholarships that other students may have been able to access.

TIP
Some scholarships require students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can learn more about this application on the [FAFSA website](#).

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you search for disability-specific scholarships, you will find a long list of national scholarships. To save you some time, we compiled a list of disability-specific scholarships for which students with intellectual disability are eligible to apply.

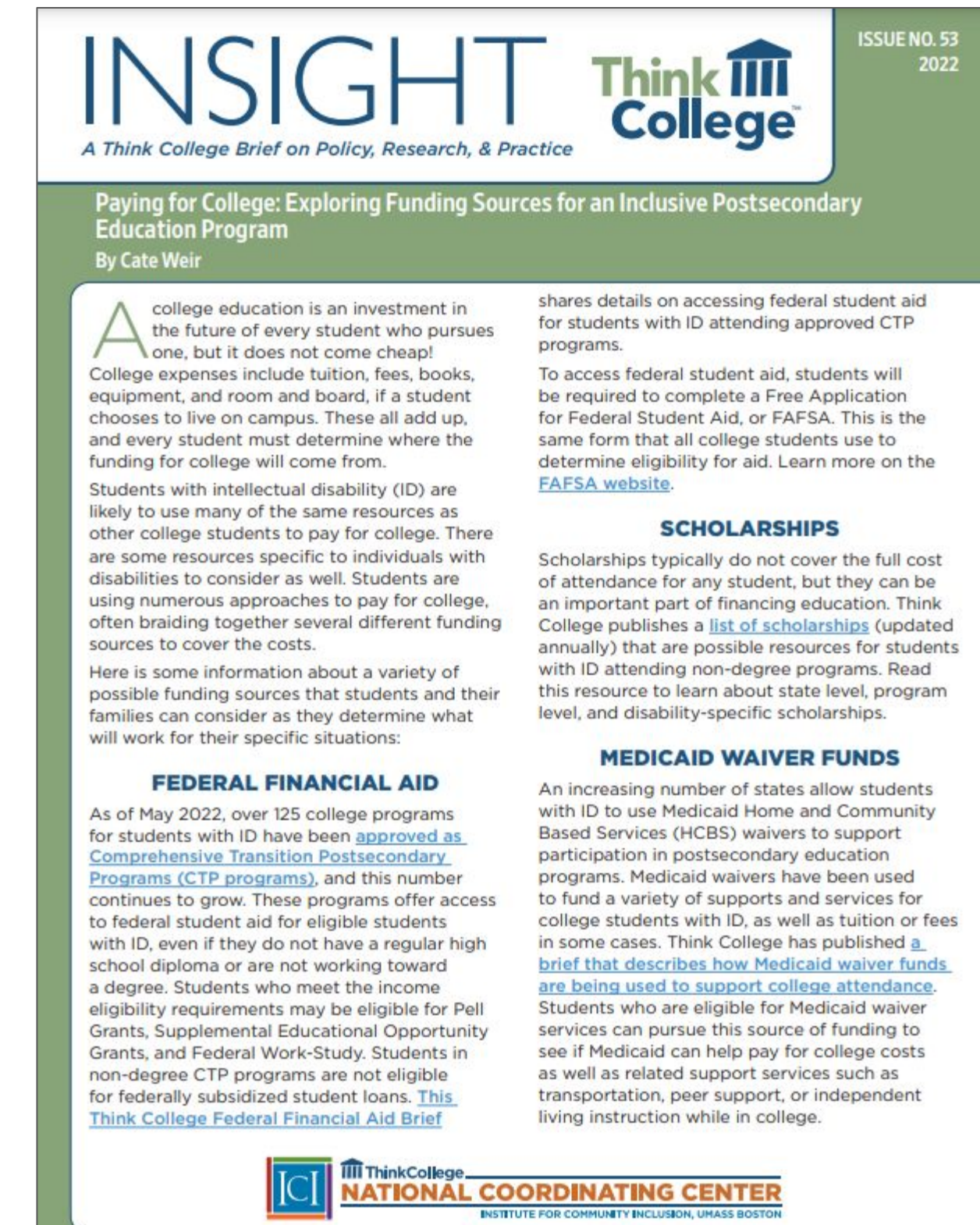
 ThinkCollege **NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER**
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON
www.thinkcollege.net

Click photo to read Think College's 2024 resource, "Scholarships for Students with Intellectual Disabilities"

Student/Family Contributions

- Work-study jobs
- Other on or off campus internships or employment
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI/SSDI)
- Private Student Loans

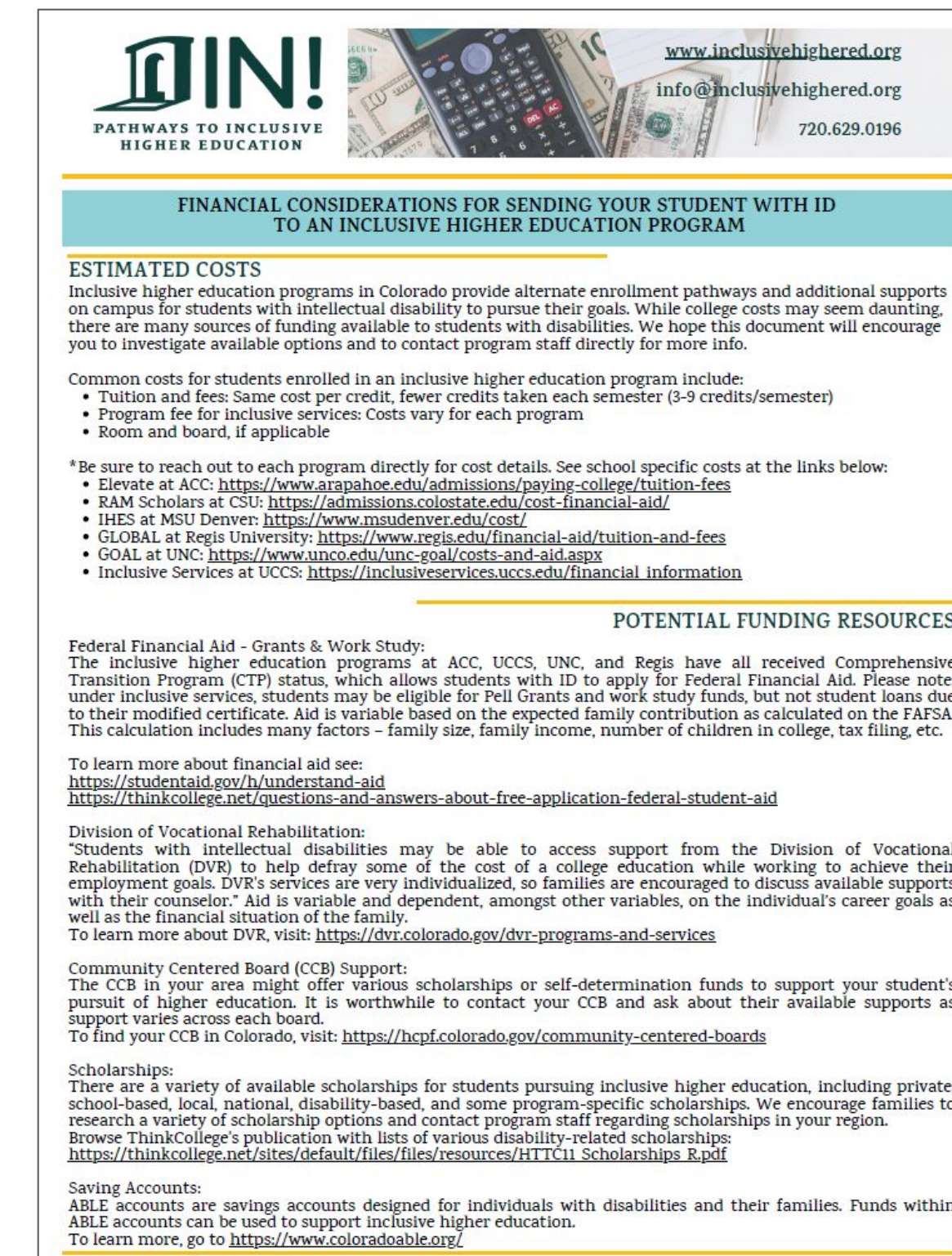
NOTE: We encourage families to research each option. Many supports are individualized to each family need.



Click photo to read Think College's 2022 resource, "Paying for College: Exploring Funding Sources for an Inclusive Post Secondary Program"

Other Financial Resources

- IN!'s [Financial Resources webpage](#)
- Think College's [Paying for College webpage](#)
- Reach out to each IHE directly for financial details! See school specific costs:
 - [Inclusive Services at UCCS](#)
 - [Elevate at ACC](#)
 - [RAM Scholars at CSU](#)
 - [IHES at MSU Denver](#)
 - [GLOBAL at Regis University](#)
 - [GOAL at UNC](#)



Click photo to view IN!'s one page document, "Financial Considerations for Sending your Student with ID to an Inclusive Higher Education Program"

Questions?

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Coloradans Achieving a Better Life Experience

Learn More & Get Involved

IN! works to raise awareness of the inclusive college options available throughout Colorado via webinars, informational sessions, mentorship opportunities, college prep resources, and more.

Helpful Links

- [IN! website](#)
- [IN! College Mentorship Program](#)
- [Fall Webinar Series](#)
- [Monthly newsletter](#)

Questions?

THANK YOU

**Thank you for attending the Meeting.
Please click Continue to participate in a short survey.**

you will be leaving zoom.us to access the external URL below

[https:// forms.gle/EhAhhR5gWrEpyRzp9](https://forms.gle/EhAhhR5gWrEpyRzp9)

Are you sure you want to continue?

Continue

Stay on zoom.us