The University of Colorado Student Relief Fund:
Extending opportunity and financial access to deserving students

The brightest student minds seek the University of Colorado as a premier destination because CU invests in the means and vision vital to achieving their ambitions.

That investment in student success is central to and expressed in CU’s mission. It’s therefore crucial the University provides assistance to those who need it.

The Student Relief Fund, created to extend the opportunity of a college education to students who have barriers to financial support, can be a sterling example of how CU articulates its vision.

What’s the Purpose of The Student Relief Fund?

This Fund will provide support to students experiencing financial need that prohibits them from obtaining their education at the University of Colorado and who suffer a legal impediment to accessing federal or state financial aid.

The Fund will provide the most benefit to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students. DACA refers to people who came to the United States as children and meet several key guidelines.

Why Help DACA Students?

DACA students pursue studies in business, technology, medicine, law and numerous other fields, thanks to DACA policy and Colorado law. These students and alumni are engaged contributors in their classrooms and careers, and they strengthen the fabric of CU, our local communities and Colorado. By providing financial support, we can ensure they continue to thrive and amplify our University’s rich academic and cultural environments.

Moreover, the University of Colorado’s vision statement—adopted by a Board of Regents resolution in 2012—directs CU to provide “access to the University for all qualified students” and “expand student success, diversity and the economic foundation of the State of Colorado.”

However, the most significant hurdle DACA students face is the inability to receive federal or state financial aid. And, although the Colorado ASSET (Advancing Students for a Stronger Tomorrow) legislation adopted in 2013 allows certain undocumented students residing in Colorado to qualify for in-state tuition and work-study programs, financial aid options for undocumented students are extremely limited.
How Will the Fund Work?

This Fund will be used to provide financial assistance to students enrolled at the University of Colorado Boulder. Applicants with active DACA or ASSET status are particularly encouraged to apply. However, DACA or ASSET status is not required for eligibility. Preference will be given to students who can demonstrate financial need and are eligible for renewal based on criteria established by the University.

If the purpose of the Fund cannot be achieved for any legal reason, the university may use the funds for any alternative purpose that benefits students with limited access to financial resources for higher education.

The Fund will be administered as a current expendable fund by the University of Colorado Foundation in accordance with this agreement, Foundation policies and applicable laws, including the Internal Revenue Code and Colorado’s Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, all as amended from time to time.

If the balance in the Fund equals or exceeds $1 million, the Fund shall be administered as an endowment, invested in perpetuity and called the Student Relief Endowed Fund. As an endowed fund, distributions shall be made in accordance with the Foundation’s Endowment Spending Policy, as it may be adopted by the Foundation’s Board of Directors from time to time, to support the purposes outlined in this agreement.

CU Student Relief Fund Eligibility Requirements

The Fund is available to any individual who:

■ faces a legal impediment to accessing federal or state financial aid

■ graduated from high school, or obtained a GED, within the United States

■ is admitted to the University of Colorado Boulder

■ otherwise demonstrates financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid

DACA and Colorado ASSET students are strongly encouraged to apply.

DACA Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for deferred action status, which conveys legal presence for immigration purposes, an individual must:

■ have entered the United States before age 16

■ be a current student, a high school graduate or honorably discharged from the U.S. military

■ be younger than 31 as of June 15, 2012

■ have not been convicted of a felony or significant crimes

■ not pose a threat to national security