College Planning Advisor

SLFC
Connecting With You

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124 S 1st ST
Aberdeen, SD 57401-4107

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MADISON, SD

Investing in a Good Education/Better Jobs

You want to get a good education after high school that will lead to a great job.

But how?

Story after story talks about the high cost of post high school education.

Costs or Investment?
A typical homeowner invests $200,000.00 in a home with interest at 4-6 percent for up to 30 years. For their monthly payments they get the use of the house and the opportunity to build equity.

Owning a new car costing $20,000 provides transportation and pleasure but there is seldom much equity in the vehicle after five years of car payments.

An investment in education can require $20,000.00 to $80,000.00 in student loans but upon obtaining a degree, the return on this investment can lead to jobs paying hundreds of thousands of dollars more (over the working life of the degree holder) than those with a high school diploma.

Paying for Post-High School Education
There are seemingly a million options for education after high school. The job market is a mixed message; 15 million unfilled jobs and 25 million unemployed/underemployed. The difference is having an educated workforce fitting the needs of an ever-changing job market.

Rightchoice.com is a website that is designed to help in selecting colleges and matching vocational opportunities to the job market. It helps in identifying education needs to pursue a career.

School counselors are trained to help sort out the many education/job possibilities. Colleges, universities and technical schools all have trained staff to assist.

But in the end, it's your decision!

Student Loan Finance Corporation

For 35 years, Student Loan Finance Corporation has been dedicated to helping students pay for their education.

Over 890,000 students and their families have utilized SLFC's student loan programs.

SLFC offers personalized private student loans through community banks. The program is called iHELP and it can be reviewed online at ihelploan.com.

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iHELP *Student Loans from Community Banks*
A program of
Student Loan Finance Corporation

iHELP

Student Loans from Community Banks

What is the iHELP Student Loan Program?

The iHELP student loan program provides personalized private student loans designed to supplement, but not replace scholarships, grants and other financial aid including federal student loans.

iHELP offers college students and their families the resources needed to fill the 'gap' between cost of attendance and other financial aid with a low cost, no origination fee loan.

What is an iHELP Private Student Loan?

The iHELP student loan is a personalized private, credit based loan. It is offered through local community banks and is designed to cover educational costs that aren't covered by a student's traditional financial aid package which generally consists of scholarships, grants and federal student loans.

Is my school eligible for the iHELP Private Student Loan Program?

You may view the list of eligible schools at iHELPloan.com under "Learn More".

Who is Student Loan Finance Corporation?

Student Loan Finance Corporation (SLFC) is a highly respected student loan originator and loan servicer with over 35 years experience in student lending. SLFC, in association with the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), offers iHELP to help students finance their education. Most of your contact will be with SLFC.

Who is the Independent Community Bankers of America?

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) is the nation's voice for local community banks. They represent nearly 5,000 banks of all sizes and charter's in 23,000 locations nationwide. The ICBA sponsors the iHELP program with their member banks.

Things Parents Should Know

How do I find out what kind of financial aid is available to me and how can I be sure I am considered for the best financial aid available?

Although there are many places to go to get help, you should take personal responsibility for your own financial aid research and planning. Most students will fund their education from a combination of sources including the following:

- Personal or family college savings accounts
- Scholarships and grants
- Income from employment while in school
- Work study programs offered at the school
- Federally sponsored student loans
- Private student loans

You can also get specific information on campus based scholarships and grants by visiting the website of the college you will be attending. It is always a good idea to look for and obtain the "free money" before considering loans.

Student loans have been in the news a lot lately. What do I need to know about them?

- Many more borrowers manage their loans effectively and pay them on time than not. Most students will borrow at least a portion of their educational costs, so do not be too concerned if you also need to borrow.

- If you need to borrow, do so responsibly and always maximize your eligibility for free or inexpensive funding first. Not all student loans are the same, so make sure you understand the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized student loans.

- The federal government now originates all subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans as well as the Direct PLUS and Direct consolidation loans. Commercial lenders, like banks, lend money under their own "private" student loan programs. The iHELP loan is made to students and their parents through local community banks.

- Loans represent a potential long-term investment and can significantly impact your credit, your lifestyle and your career path. They are a serious obligation that if managed correctly can be the difference in creating the life you are dreaming about.

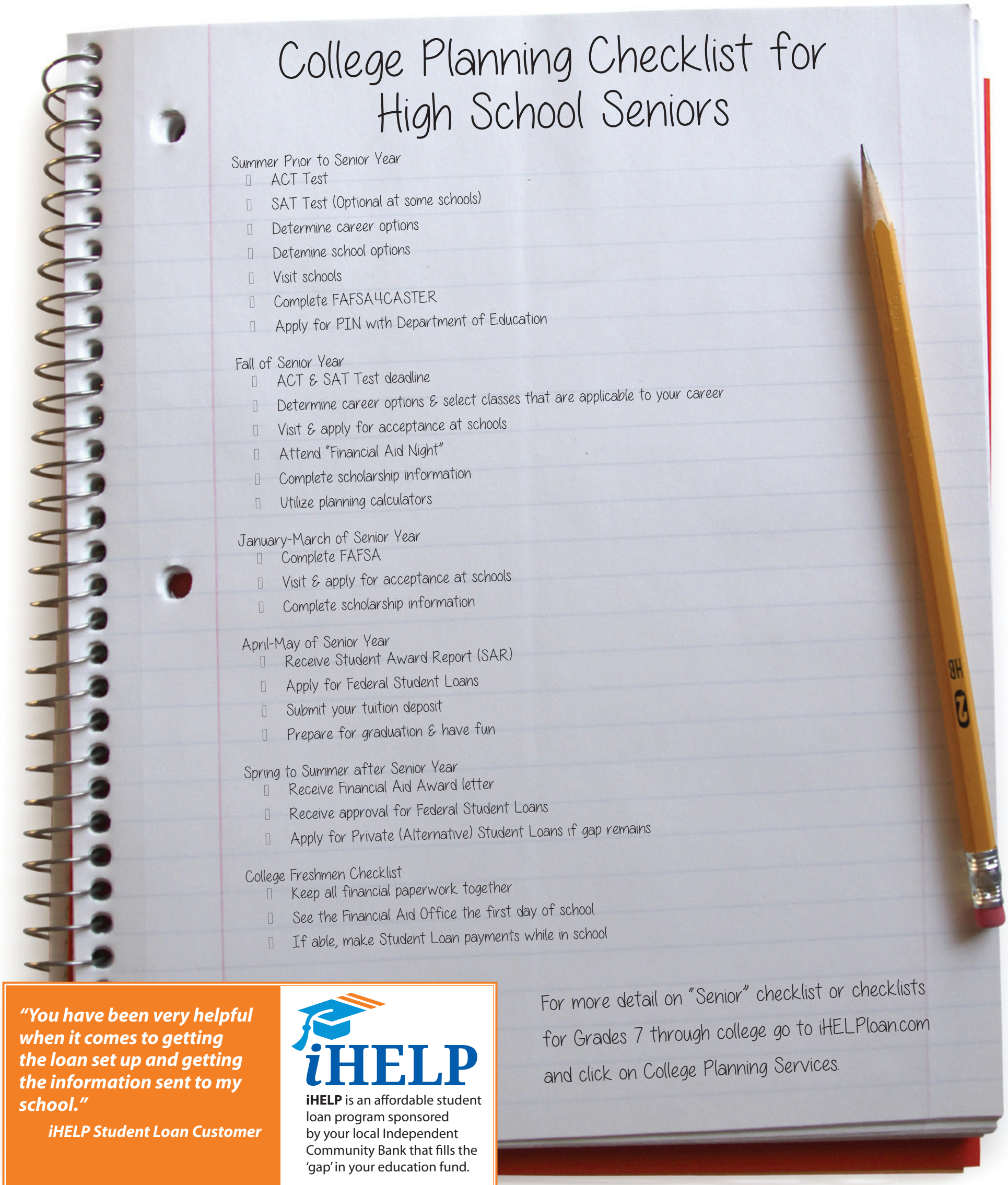
- While you should have help along the way, you are ultimately responsible for being an educated and responsible borrower and thus for the timely repayment of your student loans. It is your responsibility to keep track of your loans and to keep your servicer updated on change of status, address and any other information that could have an impact on the repayment of your loans

- If you do borrow, be aware that there are a variety of loan products with differing interest rates and features. One of the best ways to compare loan products is to compare the costs as they are exhibited in the loan's Annual Percentage Rate (APR). The APR will tell you what the true cost of the loan will be over the life of the loan

When should I start thinking about financial aid for college? Is there a timeline for admissions and financial aid that I should follow?

Financing your education can be a long-term financial investment so the sooner you start planning, the better. iHELP College Planning Services found at **iHELPloan.com** can help you and your family make informed decisions about the best way to save and pay for college. An educated borrower usually pays less than an uneducated borrower and those who start early, usually end up with more options for scholarships and grants.

A college education is one of the best investments you'll ever make for your child. It will be well worth your time and effort to prepare.



"You have been very helpful when it comes to getting the loan set up and getting the information sent to my school."

iHELP Student Loan Customer

www.iHELPloan.com
800-645-7404

iHELP

iHELP is an affordable student loan program sponsored by your local Independent Community Bank that fills the 'gap' in your education fund.

SLFC
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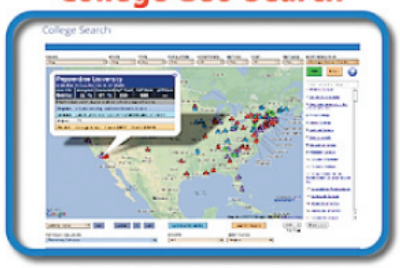
College Planning Services

We know that planning for college can be overwhelming. There are a lot of important factors to consider, from figuring out the cost, exploring what types of aid and scholarships are available, and determining what type of salary you might expect to earn based on what you study. It's important to have an idea of what kind of return on investment you can expect from your education, particularly when you are financing a portion of it.

iHELP provides information that will help you get started. Our free resources on colleges and their costs, available scholarships and career paths can help you make some critical decisions as you plan your financial future. If it turns out that you need a private student loan to help fill the gap between the cost of your education and amounts available to you from family contributions, scholarships, or federal aid, iHELP is there to lend you the money you need and believes that where you borrow from matters. As the exclusive preferred service provider to the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), iHELP is committed to helping students and communities meet their educational and financial goals.

www.iHELPloan.com
(Click on College Planning Services tab)

College Geo-Search



College Comparison

College Profiles

College Sports Search

Scholarship Matching

Career Road Maps

College Planning
- 8th & 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- High School Senior
- Undergraduates
- Graduates
- Definitions

Planning Tools
- College Search
- College Comparison
- Scholarship Explorer
- Career Paths
- Planning Calculators

Paying for College
- The Big Picture
- Scholarships
- Grants
- Saving for College
- Direct Stafford Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans
- Private Student Loans

ARE YOU?

COLLEGE BOUND

COLLEGE ATTENDING

CAREER BOUND

Discover what the iHELP College Planning services can do for you.

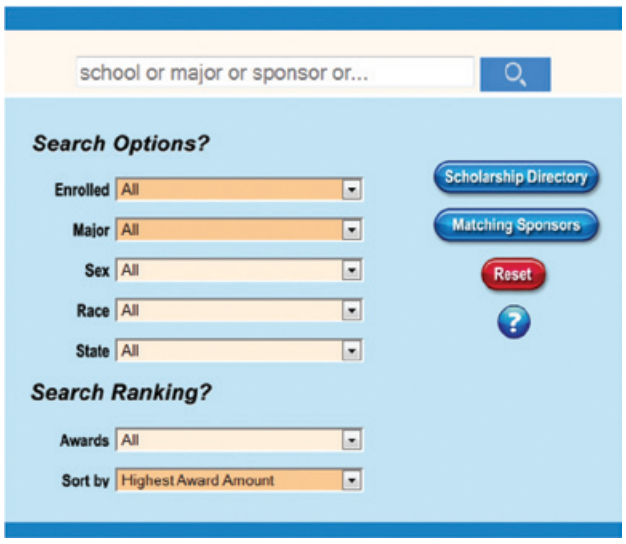
1. College Search - over 7,500 colleges in the US (this includes every kind of higher education professional certification entity and institution that reports their data to the Department of Education, not just 2 and 4 year colleges).

2. Scholarship Explorer - over 18,600 scholarships representing a total value of over $7 Billion in awards (over 2 million potential award recipients).

3. Career Paths - over 850 job occupation pay rates (Department of Labor tracked) and over 50,000 employment job titles.

Planning College Finances - Get Free Money First!

When planning your college finances you should always look for free money first before you apply for any student loans.



Scholarship Explorer is a search engine, now available on the Apple iTunes Store to help you browse and find applications for Scholarships and Grants.

After you get government grants, scholarships, federal assistance and still have a funding gap, www.ihelploan.com provides a very affordable and competitive student loan alternative to the big lenders.

Scholarship Explorer is a free app. Visit www.rightchoice.net and click on "Scholarship Matching" to get yours.

Search with Scholarship Explorer

18,625 Scholarships
3,347 Sponsors
2,349 Non-School Sponsors
998 School Sponsors
7,198 Non-School Scholarships
11,427 School Scholarships
Totaling $7.5 billion in awards

SLFC HELPing Banks Help Students & Families for over 35 Year

SLFC

Connecting With You

Student Loan Finance Corporations has been in the student loan business for over 35 years. Since 1978, SLFC has been working with 700 banks in 37 states and has serviced student loans to over 890,000 borrowers for more than $4,000,000,000 in total loan amount.

SLFC Bought Student Loans at Any Time, Amount and Status

Originally, SLFC primarily provided capital and servicing for federally guaranteed loans. Says Norg Sanderson, former SLFC President/CEO, "A big part of our strategy was that we would buy any loan at any time at any amount and at any status." By doing so, SLFC provided the funding for South Dakota banks so they wouldn't have liquidity issues, didn't have to staff a student loan office or program, and didn't have to see their good bank customers go down the street to a competitor. As the federal government returned to providing loans directly to students, SLFC shifted its emphasis to providing and servicing private loans through its iHELP Student Loan Program.

Private Student Loans Now Offered Through Community Banks to Fill Educational Financing Gap

The iHELP Student Loan is a private, credit-based loan with competitive rates and good borrower benefits. It is offered through local community banks and is designed to cover educational costs that aren't covered by a student's traditional financial aid package, which generally consists of scholarships, grants, and federal student loans.

Superior Service…Lower Default Rates

SLFC has been long recognized by students, families, and higher education financial aid professionals for providing superior service. Typically, an SLFC customer is assigned a counselor who will work with them throughout the period of their loan payback, providing continuity and familiarity.

While default rates continue to rise (according to the Department of Education, there was an 8.8% default rate for the year ending last September 30, which is up 1.8% from the year before), SLFC borrowers have typically had default rates significantly below the national averages.

Says Sanderson, "Student Loan Finance Corporation is not just a 'financial institution,' but an Information Technology Company that simplifies the complex education process for parents, students, and lenders to assure that the investments made in education have the maximum opportunity to succeed."

Who Are The Independent Community Bankers of America?

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) is the nation's voice for community banks and represents nearly 5,000 banks of all sizes and charter's in 23,000 locations nationwide. The ICBA sponsors the iHELP student loan program with their member banks.

What is an Originating Lender?

The originating lender owns the loan and provides the funding for the loan through SLFC. You will see the originating lender's name on your promissory note and loan disclosures.

What is the relationship between the Originating lender, ICBA and SLFC?

The originating lender is a member of the ICBA and provides the funding for the loan. SLFC will service the loan on behalf of the originating lender from the point of loan application through repayment.

What is a Participating or Referring Lender?

If you come to the iHELP website from your bank's website and the originating lender on the application is different than your bank, this means that your bank is acting as a participating or referring lender. Your bank has chosen to participate in the iHELP loan program but they will not own your loan. They may participate by simply providing the iHELP link on their website so that you can access the online application through their website or they may provide funding for the loan to the originating lender.

ICBA

Preferred
SERVICE PROVIDER®

iHELP Student Loan Consolidation

The time has never been better to consolidate your Private Student Loans to reduce your monthly payments and simplify your life.

Through iHELP's Private Student Loan Consolidation program you can:

- Consolidate both federal and private student loans
- Include your parents eligible Federal Parent PLUS loan(s)
- Reduce multiple private loans into one single monthly payment to simplify your payments & help budgeting.
- Apply to release your cosigner after 24 consecutive months of on time payments[1].
- Choose from great fixed rates.

The iHELP consolidation loan program gives college graduates a way to unify student loans into one potentially money saving account.

What does it take to qualify to consolidate your Private Student Loans?

- Graduation from an iHELP Private Student Loan Consolidation eligible school.
- Qualifying credit history and income level or have a qualifying cosigner.
- Private Student Loans totaling from $25,000 to $100,000 for undergraduate borrowers and up to $150,000 for graduate borrowers.

To find additional information on the topics of Eligibility, Interest Rates, Benefits and Repayment Options check out the Consolidation Loan FAQ at iHELPloan.com or call 1-800-645-7404.

SLFC is the loan program administrator for the iHELP Student Loan Consolidation Program.

[1] Must pass credit verification and Debt to Income Ratio

Do Your Homework... Make College Affordable

"Do your homework" used to mean that if you studied and got good grades, you'd probably be able to go to college.

Today, families are not only faced with ever-increasing costs for education, but the possibility of a high debt load after the student graduates. That scenario is weighed against the fact that an advanced education offers the strongest possibility of better jobs with better pay.

"Doing your homework" now means a lot more…such as, determining "what can we truly afford?"

Yankton, South Dakota, banker Kevin Watt recognizes that making an investment in obtaining an education is not inexpensive.

"Getting a degree is not cheap, but if you do your homework and plan early it can be fundable for most families without going too far into debt. Students need to be aware there is a wealth of scholarships and other financial resources for which they can apply."

First Dakota National Bank had its beginning in 1872 in Yankton, South Dakota. It has since grown to a network of 18 offices throughout the state. First Dakota National Bank was one of the first banks to recognize the many opportunities that the iHELP program could provide for its younger customers and their families.

"We're always looking for ways to help our customers meet their financial goals, one of which is helping our younger customers to get a college education in order to get a solid career started and be on sound financial footing throughout the rest of their lives. Student Loan Finance Corporation's iHelp loan program is a great conduit for providing much-needed planning and financial resources and that's one of the main reasons we jumped into the iHELP program as early as we did."

Kevin Watt
Vice President, Retail Lending & Collections
First Dakota National Bank

For over 35 years, Student Loan Finance Corporation (SLFC) has been known as a premier provider of college loan services. Through its iHELPloan.com website, it provides college planning services which include free resources on U.S. college costs, average salaries by career and location, links to more than 18,600 available scholarships totaling $7 billion and detailed checklists outlining college planning steps from eighth grade through graduate studies.

"In my opinion, college planning should start when your son or daughter is a freshman in high school. If you wait until the last minute, you may find your child in the situation where he or she has to borrow more money than otherwise may have been necessary."

Watt's advice comes not only as a banker, but also as a father of four who has learned to put into practice what he preaches.

"We have four children. Three of our children have attended private schools. By doing our homework we discovered that there's a wealth of scholarships available at those private schools. That made them affordable for us."

It's recommended that, when students and their families are planning for college finances, they always look for free money first (scholarships, grants, federally assistance, etc.) before applying for any student loans.

"Many families will find there's still a gap in what college will cost and how much money they have. That's where they may look for a private student loan or "gap financing." SLFC created the iHELP loan program that I think is one of the best out there for private student funding. It's clear, concise and transparent."

iHELP is a simple, low-cost private lending program offered through local community banks to help their customers achieve their higher education goals.

"I collect money for the bank and I understand things happen to people that they didn't expect that create a financial crisis. SLFC is an expert in the student loan business who understands that, too."

The iHELP Private Student Loan Program and its lending partners are committed to helping students and their families make informed decisions about their plans for higher education.

"It's a tool that we use to offer more services to our customers so that they can help realize their dreams and goals. At First Dakota, we like to be a participant in programs that make sense—both for us as a bank and for our customers—and we think this is one of them."

"The personalized help has been fantastic, and I know that iHELP will make sure that I'm set for the next semester and guide me through whatever steps need to be taken."

iHELP Student Loan Customer

www.iHELPloan.com
800-645-7404

iHELP is an affordable student loan program sponsored by your local Independent Community Bank that fills the 'gap' in your education fund.

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iHELP $1,000 Scholarship and iPad Drawing

Student Loan Finance Corporation is pleased to announce the availability of **FIVE** scholarships for South Dakota high school seniors. These $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to South Dakota high school seniors attending a college, university or technical institute for the current academic year. Every scholarship application will be automatically entered into a drawing for a free iPad.

The applicant is responsible for submitting scholarships to SLFC. Scholarship winners will be chosen at random. Go to www.slfc.com for criteria and application.

Email completed application to loans@slfc.com or mail completed application to:

iHELP®Scholarship
Student Loan Finance Corporation
124 South First Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401-4107

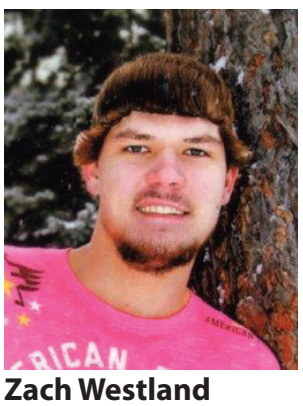
Congratulations to the 2014 iHELP Scholarship Recipients

Kalli Bell
Clark High School

Cole Julius
Watertown High School

Xzayana Henderson
T.F Riggs High School

Brock Reinhiller
Dell Rapids High School



Zach Westland
Belle Fourche High School

Rabecca Lauer
Spearfish High School
(iPad winner)

SLFC
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iHELP
Student Loans from Community Banks

$1,000 Scholarship and iPad Drawing

Student Loan Finance Corporation is pleased to announce the availability of **FIVE** scholarships for South Dakota high school seniors. These $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to South Dakota high school seniors attending a college, university or technical institute for the 2015/2016 academic year. Every scholarship application will be automatically entered into a drawing for a free iPad.

The applicant is responsible for submitting scholarships to SLFC. Scholarship winners will be chosen at random. The criterion to qualify for the $1,000 scholarship is that the applicant must be: 1) a high school senior for the 2014/2015 academic year, 2) applied to 2015/2016 academic year cost of education and 3) not on academic probation.

Email completed application to loans@slfc.com or mail completed application to: **iHELP® Scholarship, Student Loan Finance Corporation, 124 South First Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401-4107**. **Postmark deadline is March 31, 2015.**
For assistance completing the application, please call 800-645-7404. For information on iHELP student loans visit www.ihelploan.com.

Applicant Data (Please Print)

First Name_____ MI _____ Last Name_____

Mailing Address_____ Apt_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone: Home (_____)_____ Mobile (_____)_____

E-mail Address _____

High School Data

High School Name_____ HS Graduation Year_____

City_____ State_____

College Data - Name of post-secondary school you plan to attend

Major or course of study _____

College #1_____ City _____ State_____

College #2_____ City _____ State_____

Where did you hear about the scholarship?

◯SD Planning Days ◯State/School Event_____ ◯iHELP/SLFC Website

◯Other_____

To download complete application go to www.slfc.com

SLFC
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124 S 1st St
Aberdeen, SD 57401-4107

Toll Free: 1-800-645-7404
Fax: 1-605-622-4495

For e-mail inquiries into new student loan applications, contact loans@slfc.com

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