

How to Appeal a Financial Aid Award

1. **Call the college's financial aid office** to ask about the **process** to appeal the award (many colleges have a form (or forms) to complete, to perform a holistic review of the family's current financial circumstances).
2. Some colleges ask the family to **write a letter** to the financial aid office. The letter should **summarize the special circumstances** and the financial impact of the circumstance(s) on the family's ability to pay for college.
3. **Gather documentation** of the special circumstances - the **best documentation** is independent, third party documentation providing information about the special circumstances (bills, receipts, and letters from people who are familiar with the family's situation are especially helpful).
4. ***An appeal is most successful when the circumstance is beyond the family's control.***

The financial aid appeals process is formulaic - if special circumstances affect the family's ability to pay, the college can make adjustments to the data elements that are used by the FA formula to calculate the EFC (expected family contribution).

** Adapted from the February 7, 2019 issue of the High School Counselor Week Newsletter
(<http://www.thecollegesolution.com/how-to-appeal-a-financial-aid-letter/>)