

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ms. Xxxxx and I am writing this appeal on behalf of my Son, XXXX. He is planning on attending his dream school next fall, XXXX University. We are extremely proud of him for being accepted into such a prestigious institution. We are also grateful for the financial aid award that has been offered. However, based on the current award, it looks as though XXXXX may not be a possibility for XXXX or our family. As parents, we are facing our biggest fear; not being able to give our child the best education possible. As XXX will be the first person in our family to attend college, this would be my biggest nightmare. My interest and sincere hope in writing this letter is to plead my case for any additional help you can provide in helping send XXX to XXXXX.

I ask that you allow me a moment to accurately explain our financial situation as our FAFSA form does not tell the true story. My husband and I are very hard-working people. I have raised my two sons as a stay at home mother, my husband has worked diligently in a fabric shop for 15 years rising to the level of director. We are still a one income family.

On our 2015 tax returns, our adjusted gross income is \$84,956. However, this is very misleading. We were forced to take a one-time disbursement from my husband's IRA in the amount of \$37,500. The roof was literally falling in on our heads and had no choice but to use this money for emergency home repairs. After paying taxes on this distribution, we were forced to use the entire \$30,000 to fix our roof. In 2015 and every year moving forward, our actual income was only my husband's salary: \$46,902. Further, attached is a copy of our 2016 tax returns. Our Adjusted Gross Income is only \$45,680. I ask that you please consider removing the \$37,500 as income and readjust our expected family contribution to reflect our earned income: \$46,902 from 2015 or our 2016 income of \$45,680.

We have a younger son who is currently a junior in high school that we are also concerned with and cannot pool all our resources just for xxxx We will try our best to help xxxx, but with the financial aid package we received, it does not seem doable. xxxxx understands that he is responsible for shouldering the bulk of his college costs. I am pleading with your office to consider our real family need and offer some additional aid.

Please consider giving xxxx some additional grants or scholarships. Without your help, I am facing one of the worst conversations in my life; telling my son that he will not be the first person in our family to attend college. We realize that borrowing is a necessary option and a great investment for xxxx future.

Though we are requesting any additional help you could give. It would make a tremendous difference. Please consider our circumstances and realize you will be making a huge impact in our family's life. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.