

**From:** [Washington College Grant \(WSAC\)](#)  
**Subject:** CARES Act Funding and State Aid  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2020 4:49:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Colleagues,

Last week colleges throughout the nation were [issued a letter](#) on emergency financial aid grants, as provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Per the letter and [Funding Certification and Agreement form](#), colleges have significant discretion. This includes encouraging the use of professional judgment and a statement indicating that this funding is not considered Title IV financial aid (#3).

In alignment with the Department of Education's statement, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is providing the following guidance related to awarding of Washington College Grant, Passport to Careers Grant Program, College Bound Scholarship, and State Work Study:

**Any CARES Act emergency aid awarded to a student does NOT need to be included in any financial need calculation when awarding state financial aid. This would mean that any distribution of federal emergency aid would not result in a state financial aid over-award.**

Additionally, WSAC has been in contact with the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) program. The guidance above also can be used related to WSOS awards. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, we are actively working to address issues that affect our students and aid administrators. Please refer to [Resources for Financial Aid Administrators](#) Covid-19 reference page for more information.



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
Washington College Grant Team

888-535-0747

[wcg@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:wcg@wsac.wa.gov) | [readysetgrad.wa.gov/college/washington-college-grant](https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/college/washington-college-grant)