

**From:** Washington College Grant (WSAC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 10:42 AM  
**Subject:** Emergency Aid Guidance

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Greetings again –

To clarify, we want to confirm that this guidance applies to the 2024-25 academic year. We recognize that use of the acronym EFA in the 2023-24 award year refers to Estimated Financial Assistance and do not want to cause any confusion with the transition to the 2024-25 award year where it refers to Emergency Financial Assistance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you!



**Washington Student Achievement Council**

Washington College Grant Team

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Greetings, Colleagues!

There have been robust conversations related to the guidance issued by the US Department of Education and the treatment of emergency financial assistance (EFA). WSAC will align with the updated federal policy which states that *“emergency financial assistance provided to the student for unexpected expenses that are a component of the student's cost of attendance, and not otherwise considered when the determination of the student's need is made, shall not be treated as other financial assistance”* (OFA). Components of the cost of attendance would include unexpected expenses for food, housing, materials, etc. Colleges must have a policy and process for students to request emergency financial assistance and document the request including the unexpected expense for each student. The expenses must not already be included in one of the student's COA components. Volume 3, Chapter 3 of the 2024-25 Federal Student Aid Handbook provides additional guidance.

Funding utilized as EFA for students is not to be factored into need-based aid calculations. When completing Unit Record Reports, the award code/type will be reported as non-need based, not considered when determining need-based aid eligibility.

For those campuses that participate in the Passport to Careers program and receive Passport Student Support Funds (PSSF), these funds could be used in this manner. Institutions are allowed to use PSSF

funds as emergency financial assistance (EFA) funds and would need to document it like any other EFA funding. However, if PSSF funds are utilized as other financial assistance (OFA), standard need rules apply. The EFA funds would be reported as not subject to need but OFA funds would need to be included.

Please reach out to us with any questions you may have!

Take care,



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