Orca Student Success Fund  
Emergency Scholarship

**Purpose of the emergency scholarship**: provide a student with a resource to help alleviate or minimize an unforeseen situation that would cause the student to not complete the quarter successfully.

**Requirements**:
- Two lifetime awards, only one award for transportation
- Funding not available for community education courses
- 2.0 GPA or higher
- Clear statement of financial need
- Limited other resources
- Complete application with supporting documentation of expenses required
- Notification sent to students WCC email with amount awarded
- Disbursement of funds and notification through the Financial Aid Portal and Bank Mobile
- Committee decision is final and non-appealable

**Examples of emergent needs**: medical, dental, childcare, transportation, housing, state testing/licensing fees, uniform clothing for practicum internships, etc.

**Examples of non-emergent needs**: computer, car purchase, fines, court costs, financial aid repayments, airline or other type of travel, support additional family members who decided to move to Bellingham, etc.

**Criteria**:

1. **Books**: student does not qualify for financial aid or will not receive an award before the end of the quarter; excessive book costs
2. **Tuition**: student does not qualify for financial aid or qualifies for loans only and no other resources are available.
3. **Childcare**: assist parents with childcare due to unforeseen circumstances requiring childcare when no other resources are available. Exception: on-going and regular child care.
4. **Medical/Dental**: assist student with unforeseen necessary medical/dental care or emergency care not covered by insurance and no other resources are available.
5. **Transportation**: maximum of one lifetime award. Repairs such as brakes, tires, batteries, etc.. Proof of registration required with a copy attached to the petition to show proof of ownership by student.
6. **Other**: testing/licensing fees, apartment deposit when move is necessitated by landlord issues or nasty neighbors, rental assistance for no more than two months, utilities, living expenses, etc.
OSSF Procedures

- Applications are available starting the 4th week of the quarter and running until the end of the quarter, pending availability of funding.

- Students are notified of the committee decision through their WCC email within 7 to 10 days of applying.

- Applications are not accepted or considered without documentation.

- The applicant must have researched other funding options first.

- More specific emergency requests have the best chance of approval.

- Funding is not intended to fill in for late FAFSA/WASFA applications.

- Applications are reviewed by the financial aid office to ensure they are complete and reviewed for other resource options.

- Due to limited funds available the committee carefully reviews other resource options in determining approval &/or the award amount.

- Funding may be limited for students taking less than a ½ time credit load.

- Typical award amounts are $500 to $1,000.

- Typical housing awards cover one month’s rent.

- The Committee may determine that a student be referred to other appropriate college or community support.