

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.