



# PROJECT SUCCESS

## ECMC Emergency Aid Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Will the balance of the funds be available to spend the following semester?**  
Yes, all emergency aid funds will continue to roll forward. Unused funds from previous grants are rolled into the current period and used as emergency aid for students.
- 2. Are there any changes in the guidelines from the past?**  
Yes. The student must have a GPA of 2.0 or greater at the time of the application.
- 3. Are student applicants required to be enrolled in credit-bearing courses, or are Continuing Education classes also permissible?** The student must be in a degree or certificate program. Continuing Education classes do not qualify for emergency aid.
- 4. Are (high school) dual enrollment students eligible for emergency aid?**  
No, they are not eligible.
- 5. Is the minimum 2.0 GPA based on semester or cumulative?**  
GPA is usually cumulative. If your college requires a GPA above 2.0 for next semester's enrollment, adhere to that rule to ensure students getting emergency aid can enroll or graduate.
- 6. Students in their 1st semester do not have a GPA yet. Are they still eligible?**  
Yes, assuming they are eligible to enroll in the next semester at your institution. They must attend classes, and any pending grades must meet the 2.0 GPA guideline. If the student is not actively attending class, they are not eligible for emergency aid funds. The goal is to ensure that students who receive emergency aid in the current semester will be eligible to enroll in the upcoming semester.
- 7. Will we still need to obtain a W-9 from our vendors?**  
No. This was a previous phase of the emergency aid program. ECMC now works with the BEAM Platform, and all funds are distributed to the student directly, with the intent being that they must use the funds for the emergency their application is referred to.
- 8. What would be the process for providing gasoline or food? Would it be gift cards?**  
Giving gift cards is not an option under any circumstance. Please refer the student to other institutional or community services. If a student applies and is approved for emergency aid, they should select Zelle as their disbursement option. Zelle could allow them to receive funds as early as the same day.



# PROJECT SUCCESS

**9. Any student who previously received emergency aid funds is ineligible. Is this true?**

Any student who has received \$500 previously is ineligible for any future emergency aid. \$500 is the lifetime cap for any student.

**10. Define the duration of the program. Does this mean since 2017, or does it refer to each award period?**

The program began in Fall of 2017. Any student who has received \$500 since the inception of ECMC's Emergency Aid program is no longer eligible to receive emergency aid. Emergency Aid does NOT renew each semester or each award period.

**11. If students transfer to a different institution, can they apply for and receive an additional \$500 at their new institution?**

Each student has a \$500 limit for the program's duration, not linked to any college or term.

**12. Are there exceptions for students who need help paying small balances on their school account?**

No. Emergency aid is not for school-related expenses known at enrollment.

**13. If students cannot continue taking classes because they do not have the resources, will they still qualify? (For example, homeless students, technical school students, etc.)**

We cannot identify all the possible scenarios where emergency aid would be applicable. However, the policy requires the student to attend classes. Each school is asked to use its judgment to ensure alignment with the goals of the emergency aid program. The primary goal of emergency aid program is to help students persist and graduate.

**14. What should a student do if there is no written dismissal letter, or they were laid off?**

The documentation must be on the employer's letterhead. We do not allow any exceptions to this rule.

**15. Are there funds for extra phone data needed for online education?**

The need for additional data due to moving to online education is an unforeseen expense and, therefore, would qualify for emergency aid.



# PROJECT SUCCESS

- 16. Online students are being forced to take incomplete and homeless students are INCAPABLE of continuing classes and forced to drop their classes but are still in need.**

We recognize these are tough times. It is impossible to identify all scenarios where emergency aid would be applicable. We ask that each school use its best judgment to maintain alignment with the goals of the emergency aid program.

However, if the student is not attending classes, they are not eligible. The primary goal of the emergency aid program is to help students persist and graduate.

- 17. School administrators who previously had access to the portal but no longer have access. Where do we begin to regain access?**

You must work directly with your Outreach Director or contact [projectsuccess@ecmc.org](mailto:projectsuccess@ecmc.org) for instructions.

- 18. How do students typically access this portal? Is it a public link embedded in the site, or do you email the link based on request?**

Each school has a unique student portal link. The current administrators at your school should have received a unique link. All funds are paid directly to the student through the BEAM portal. After being approved for emergency aid funding, the student needs to revisit the portal to select their preferred method of funds delivery. The options are: 1) Zelle, 2) ACH Deposit, 3) paper check, or 4) virtual or physical gift cards.

- 19. How often should our college reconcile our records with the administrative portal?**

ECMC recommends your school audit your BEAM platform monthly. Edit unclaimed funds at the end of each term and change the status to deny. The funds will be redeposited into the availability of funds at your institution.