



Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students,

We are happy to announce that Heidelberg University is expanding the accessibility of the Student Emergency Support Fund (SESF). During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will make the SESF **available to all undergraduate and graduate** students who are currently enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester. We are also temporarily waiving eligibility based on Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from a student's FAFSA, meaning that **all students facing an unexpected financial emergency will be eligible to apply**. In order to assist more students, we are reducing the maximum amount of assistance available to **\$500**. All other eligibility requirements for the SESF will continue. Funding is limited funding. We will award grants until all funds for 2019-2020 are spent. We encourage all residential students to reconcile their refund/credit if they have not already done so as an additional opportunity.

Eligible expenses include:

- Assessments for disabilities
- Child care
- Food/meals
- Gas
- Housing/rent
- Medical/dental
- Personal automobile
- Personal hygiene items
- Public transportation/bus pass
- Utilities

Ineligible expenses include:

- Alcohol
- Books
- Entertainment
- Fees
- Legal fees
- Tobacco
- Tuition

To be eligible, students need to:

- Provide valid documentation of the financial emergency
- Provide appropriate contact information for the parties that are due payment
- Schedule a time to meet with an SESF committee member to process their application

Assistance is granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, gender expression, disability or national origin.

Application Process

Interested students must complete the [screening form](#) and contact Dawn Wright in the Office of Student Affairs to set up a virtual appointment with a member of the SESF Committee: Chris Abrams, Dean of Student Affairs, John Sharp, Associate Director of Stoner Health Center for Counseling; Douglas Stoll, Coordinator of Student Accessibility Services; Shaun Gunnell, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs; and Paul Sittason Stark, Chaplain and Director of Religious Life and Civic Engagement. You may contact any member of the committee to apply if you are more comfortable with this approach. You will have an interview with a committee member, and if your request is eligible, you will be guided through completing and submitting an application. Documents to support your request (bills or estimates, etc.) are required to complete your application. Contact a Program Administrator with questions: Dawn Wright (dwright1@heidelberg.edu) or Paul Sittason Stark (pstark@heidelberg.edu).

Award Payments

When your application is submitted, a decision will be made within two business days. If approved for funding, in most cases payment will be made payable to a third party. Payment type will be determined by the college on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, award payments will be completed within two business days. Payments to third parties will be mailed to them. Food cards and gas cards, if applicable, will be mailed to a student's current address.

If you have any questions, contact one of the SESF program administrators: Dawn Wright (dwright1@heidelberg.edu) or Paul Sittason Stark (pstark@heidelberg.edu).

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Paul Sittason Stark
SESF Program Administrator
Director of Religious Life and Civic Engagement