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TO: Directors of Financial Aid
Texas Public and Private/Independent Institutions of Higher Education

FROM: DeChà Reid
Director, Financial Aid Services

DATE: January 27, 2020

RE: State Financial Aid Resource Updates

As we begin the new calendar year, the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) would like to provide institutions with resources that can be used throughout the year.

Institutional Calendar

The spring 2020 calendar edition (January – April 2020) is now available on the SFAP webpage under [Stay Connected](#) → Calendar Deadlines.

Loan Automation

In order to help simplify the loan origination process for borrowers and institutions, on Dec. 17, 2019, the THECB went live with a new automated loan application review process. Loan applications will automatically be approved if they meet the application standards. If an application does not meet the standard requirements, such as, requires a credit review, wet signature review, non-citizen cosigner review, or fail some other edit, the application will go through a manual review. The goal of the automation is to reduce the number of manual reviews performed by SFAP staff and to allow institutions the ability to certify loans more quickly. We anticipate that approximate 75% of loan applications will go through the automated process.

HHloans Institution Page

To reduce duplication of information, the "Institutions" webpage was permanently removed from the HHLoans website as of Jan. 9, 2020. Institutions can find all resource information previously hosted on the HHLoans website by accessing the [SFAP Loan Programs](#) webpage.

Financial Aid Database (FAD)

On Dec. 20, 2019, an announcement about the 2019-20 (FY 2020) FAD manual was released and posted on the SFAP webpage under [Stay Connected](#) → Memos. The announcement includes the new deadline dates and updates to various data elements in the manual. Institutions are encouraged to review these items carefully to determine if there are any impacts to file processing.

Grant Payment Enhancements

Based on feedback from institutions, additional notifications have been added to the Grant Payment system to make tracking state grant funding easier.

A confirmation email will now be sent to the requestor:

- when a funds request is submitted by the institution;
- when a funds request is approved by the THECB; and
- when a return of funds is sent to the THECB by the institution.

Consanguinity or Affinity Scholarship Statement

The THECB is required to provide the [Consanguinity or Affinity Scholarship Statement](#) to be used by institutions of higher education. Prior to receiving a scholarship originating from and administered by an institution of higher education or university system, a student must file a written statement indicating whether the person is related within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity to a current member of the governing board of the institution or system.

The scholarship statement is located on the SFAP [Scholarships](#) webpage and on the [College for All Texans](#) website.

Exemption and Waiver Program Guidelines

New resource materials and updated webpage content is being created to assist institutions with the administration of exemption and waiver programs. The following six exemption program guidelines have been posted on SFAP webpage under the Exemptions and Waivers page through [Program Resources](#):

- Children of Disabled or Deceased Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers
- Disabled Peace Officers and Fire Fighters
- Education Benefits for Certain Survivors
- Fire Fighters Enrolled in Fire Science Courses
- Good Neighbor Program
- Peace Officer Enrolled in Certain Courses

To learn more about these six programs, join the monthly webcast on **Feb. 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.** Information on the webcast can be found on the SFAP webpage under [Monthly Webcasts](#).

For questions, please contact FAS at (844) 792-2640 or [Contact Us](#) (select "Financial Aid Question" under **Contact Reason**).