



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

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Dear Colleagues,

Last week postsecondary institutions were issued a [letter](#) on emergency financial aid grants, as provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The letter stated that postsecondary institutions have significant discretion in administering grants to students.

In alignment with the U.S. Department of Education's guidance, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is providing the following guidance pertaining to Maryland state financial aid programs for the 2019-2020 academic year:

Any CARES Act emergency aid awarded to a student does NOT need to be included in any financial need calculation for state financial aid. Therefore, the distribution of federal emergency aid would not result in a state financial aid over-award.

Please refer to the [Information for Postsecondary Institutions on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) reference page on the MHEC website for more information.

Sincerely,

Dr. James D. Fielder

Secretary