



Housing Financial Assistance Grant Eligibility Policy

Overview

The Housing Financial Assistance Grant provides financial assistance to eligible students at California State University, Bakersfield who are facing unexpected financial hardships that impact their ability to pay rent. This grant is intended to offer short-term relief to students experiencing emergencies that threaten their housing stability.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Enrollment Status

- a. Must be a currently enrolled student at California State University, Bakersfield.
- b. Must be enrolled at least half-time (6+ units for undergraduates, 3+ units for graduate and doctorate students) during the semester in which assistance is requested.

2. Good Disciplinary Standing

- a. Must be in good disciplinary standing with the university.
- b. This means the student must not be on disciplinary probation, suspension, or subject to active conduct sanctions that affect their eligibility for university programs.
- c. Students with prior disciplinary concerns may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature and timing of the violation.

3. Housing Status

- a. Be currently housed off-campus and provide documentation proving current residence, such as a lease agreement, rental receipt, or housing verification letter from a landlord.

4. Financial Hardship

- a. Must have experienced an unexpected financial hardship that directly impacts the ability to pay rent. Qualifying emergencies include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Job loss or layoff
 - ii. Medical emergency or illness-related expenses
 - iii. Unexpected reduction in work hours
 - iv. Victim of theft, fraud, or other financial crisis

- b. Must provide documentation of the emergency, such as termination notices, medical bills, pay stubs showing loss of income, or a letter explaining the situation.

5. **Financial Aid & Cost of Attendance (COA) Consideration**

- a. Students' eligibility is contingent upon the remaining room in their financial aid package.

6. **Recipient Responsibilities**

- a. Students approved for the Emergency Grant must fulfill the following requirements to maintain their eligibility:
 - i. **Ongoing Communication:** Must maintain consistent communication with the designated support staff to develop a plan for financial stability.
 - ii. **Provide Proper Payment Documentation** (e.g., invoice, receipt).
 - iii. **Additional Documentation:** Must provide any additional documentation requested to verify ongoing need or confirm compliance with the grant's terms.

7. **Exclusions**

- a. Students who have no room in their Cost of Attendance from their financial aid package for additional resources may be ineligible unless an adjustment can be made.
- b. Students who do not have official documentation under their name, may not qualify for financial assistance.
- c. Grants are limited to once within a 12-month period. Students who have already received a grant and apply for the same or different grant within the same 12-month period may be ineligible.

8. **Award Amount**

- a. Grant amounts will vary based on need and available funding
- b. Limited funding is available, and applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis

