Memo

To: Financial Aid Administrators
From: Elizabeth K. McCloud, Vice President, PA State Grant and Special Programs
Date: December 2020
Subject: PHEAA Federal Work Study 2020-21 COVID-19 Guidance

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on higher education. PHEAA is committed to supporting Pennsylvania postsecondary institutions approved for participation in the Federal Work-Study On-Campus (FWS-ON) and Community Service (FWS-CS) Programs, as the schools utilize funds in compliance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Accordingly, PHEAA is providing the following guidance:

Institutions participating in PHEAA's Federal Work-Study Programs (FWS-ON, FWS-CS) will not lose funding eligibility or allocation funding within the FWS-ON or FWS-CS Programs for changes in the usage of the federal share of Campus-Based funds during the 2020-21 Academic Year as a result of COVID-19. Specifically, this means transfer of a school's FWS allocation dollars into the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Program, as allowed under the CARES Act for payment periods that include December 31, 2020, is also considered an FWS expense for PHEAA. If the end date of the federally declared emergency related to COVID-19 is extended beyond December 31, 2020, then this FWS-ON and FWS-CS eligibility will automatically be extended to the end of the 2020-21 Award Year. Institutions should continue to report on FWS-ON and FWS-CS as they normally would for the 2020-21 year-end reporting to PHEAA.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact PHEAA at 1-800-443-0646, option 3, option 2, or via email at matchingfunds@pheaa.org.

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