EMERGENCY FUNDING

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE
DASH GRANT

• Provides up to $1,000 per undergraduate student during the duration of the grant cycle (fall 2017 through summer 2019) for expenses related to a financial emergency.
• UWM will award $330,000 in emergency funding for the 2017-2018 academic year.
• UWM will award $345,000 in emergency funding for the 2018-2019 academic year.
ELIGIBILITY

• Student must complete FAFSA.
• Student must have expected family contribution of $7,000 or less.
• Student must provide documentation for emergency expenses.
• Student must be enrolled during the semester they are enrolled.
• Emergency funding cannot cover tuition, fees, books or other university expenses.
DASH GRANT PROCESS

• Student can apply:
  – via a web-based portal. (More details to come, including campus marketing campaign)
  – by visiting the Dean of Students Office.

• Students can login multiple times to update their application.
  – Start the application when they are meeting with their advisor.
  – Upload documents to the application later in the day.

• When application is started, DOS staff will contact student to schedule a time to meet. Student is assigned a DOS staff member to meet & review their case.
  – Go over finances
  – Offer additional resources
  – Sign required paperwork (W-9 for tax purposes).

• When application is complete, DOS Staff member will update the web-based portal.
DASH GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

• Each application will be reviewed by a team of 3 people:
  – DOS Staff member
  – Financial Aid Leadership Team Member
  – Member of Academic Advising Review Team

• Applications reviewed within 48 hours:
  – Applications completed by noon will be reviewed the same day.
  – Applications completed after noon will be reviewed the following day.

• Applications reviewed based on the grant criteria.
  – What constitutes an emergency.
  – Evaluating amount of funds to issue when students do not have a clear idea about how much they need.
HOW ARE STUDENTS GIVEN FUNDS

• Once an application is approved, Accounts Payable will be notified.
  – Accounts Payable receives information by the close of business day.
  – The next morning they process checks
  – The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Day, the Dean of Students picks up checks and issues them to students.

• Students will be issued two-party checks (if vendor does not accept 2 party checks, we can work with Accounts Payable to issue a 3\textsuperscript{rd} party check).

• Student may be issued gift cards for food, toiletries, etc.

• Students must submit receipt or invoice for items purchased.
FOLLOW UP WITH STUDENT

• Students may also be asked to engage in ongoing support activities.
  – Meet with advisor, instructors, etc.
  – Follow up meeting with DOS Staff member (case management)
  – Apply for public assistance
  – Tutoring
  – Initial consultation with counseling
  – Meet with the Career Planning and Resource Center to help find employment.
  – Food pantry
  – 211
  – Explore additional financial assistance
  – Meet with Neighborhood Housing/University Housing to explore housing options
  – Budgeting
  – Financial Literacy Course.
  – And so on…
5 EMERGENCY GRANTS IN SPRING:

- **Student 1:** Dad lost one of two jobs. Student was not eating much during the year. Recently got a job but does not have reliable transportation. DOS worked with Transportation Services to get her a summer bus pass and gave her funds for food and toiletries. Her GPA is 3.45.

- **Student 2:** Senior who transferred to UWM from MATC and was renting an apt. in Wauwatosa but roommate recently left. He lost his job and he was selected for FA verification. He came to DOS to withdraw but we stopped him and talked to him about giving him money for rent. Upon receipt of the grant, he said he found another roommate and applied at 2 jobs. **He earned a 2.0**.

- **Student 3:** Adviser brought student to DOS. She was nearly homeless, was ruining out of food, and also had a baby. Gave the student UCM food pantry referral form, for a weekly basis. As well as the 211 number and information of WIC. Issued her emergency funds for food, toiletries, and fuel to travel to school. **Earned a 2.45.**

- **Student 4:** Student was working part-time, commuting, and experienced fairly significant health issues. Her family has no resources to assist her--her insurance only is good in Madison County--and her car was totaled in a hit and run accident. We were able to help her with transportation. **Earned a 3.6.**

- **Student 5:** Came to us late April. Facing eviction. Behind a few months rent. Has anxiety and depression. His family has no money, he was paying mom money to help her --she has health issues. Had full time job lined up for summer but was worried about where to live. By time we found out about him, it was likely too late to pass the spring semester. He is connected to our counseling services and he is enrolled in summer and fall classes so we are going to continue to monitor and help him. Our goal was to get him reenrolled in summer. **D's, F's and I's for spring.**
HOW YOU CAN HELP

• Recognize when students are financially struggling.
• Refer students to the website for emergency funding information.
• Refer students to the Dean of Students Office to begin case management.
• DOS staff may reach out to you and ask you to reach out to a student in need of support. Please give this student some extra attention.
WHEN YOU REFER STUDENTS

• Do NOT give them the impression that they will be given a grant.

If you think they may meet the criteria:
Tell the student, “The Dean of Students Office is a great resource for students who experience extreme or unusual circumstances while they are enrolled at UWM. They have funding to issue emergency grants. I think you should apply for an emergency grant. A staff member will meet with you to see if you are eligible for the grant. If you are ineligible, they will try to identify other resources to assist you.”

If you know they don’t meet the criteria (grad student, undocumented, not enrolled):
Do not fill out the online application. Instead, refer them directly to the Dean of Students Office (walk them over, cc the student on an email to dos@uwm.edu). Tell the student, “The Dean of Students Office is a great resource for students who experience extreme or unusual circumstances while they are enrolled at UWM. They may be able to identify resources to assist you.”