

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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TOPICS:	GO Grant Alternative Process Due to COVID-19

The deadline for expending GO Grant funds expired March 24, 2020. We have several schools this year with unexpended GO Grant balances. While this is not an uncommon occurrence, we know that institutions are experiencing uncommon circumstances due to the impact of COVID-19.

LOSFA Programs would normally:

- Grant extensions of less than one week to institutions able to justify the delay in submitting bills;
- Sweep remaining GO Grant balances after extensions;
- Redistribute remaining GO Grant funds to institutions that expended their allocations by the billing deadline, and
- Adjust allocations upward or downward for the following year.

LOSFA Programs is offering an alternative process due to the impact of COVID-19 for the 2019-20 academic year. Postsecondary schools with remaining GO Grant funds will be allowed to develop a COVID-19 Amendment to their current GO Grant packaging policy to:

- Expand current packaging policies to allow more students to receive GO Grant, and
- Award additional funds to existing GO Grant recipients.

Schools are advised that any changes to the packaging policy may not violate existing GO Grant program rules. For example, the annual maximum award of \$3,000 remains in effect. Additionally, the student's gift aid must not exceed 60% of financial need.

Institutions affected will be given a deadline of April 8th to craft and execute the COVID-19 packaging policy. Institutions will be required to note the date of the policy change and forward the amended policy to Joanna Brumfield at LOSFA. GO Grant Funds remaining after April 8th will be swept and re-distributed to institutions that indicated the need for additional dollars.

If additional GO Grant dollars are available after the April 8th deadline, LOSFA will provide a timeline for redistribution of those funds to institutions that billed on time and have identified students who qualify for the GO Grant award.

Questions? Contact Joanna Brumfield at Joanna.brumfield@la.gov.