



2018 Advocating for Emergency Aid Programs in Higher Education Statewide Convening

Hilton Austin Airport
9515 Hotel Drive
Austin, TX 78719

BRIEFING & CONVENING AGENDA

September 10 –11, 2018*

Overview: Emergency aid programs help students with unexpected expenses so they can stay on the path to graduation. Even when students have a plan for paying their tuition, fees, books, and other costs, unexpected – and often emergency – situations arise that can destroy students’ plans and budgets. For many of today’s college students, a car repair or a medical bill can be the difference between staying on track to graduation or dropping out. More and more colleges and universities are developing aid programs to help students with these expenses.

There is a variety of different types of emergency aid programs, including campus vouchers, completion scholarships, emergency loans, food pantries, and restricted and unrestricted grants. Word of mouth is often the primary method of sharing information about emergency aid programs, which unfortunately does not reach many students in need. While aid programs vary across colleges and universities, programs with strong program administration, communication, and sustainability often serve students the best. (Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

DAY ONE (BRIEFING)

Monday, September 10; 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(Registration 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m./Exclusive Networking 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

1:00 p.m. Registration/Check-in

2:00 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Raymund Paredes, Ph.D., Texas Commissioner of Higher Education

2:10 p.m. Overview of the Emergency Aid Project in Texas

Mary Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy, THECB

2:20 p.m. The Landscape of Emergency Aid Programs at Texas Institutions of Higher Education

Ginger Gossman, Senior Director of Innovation and Policy Development, THECB

* The afternoon briefing on September 10 is designed for regents/trustees, chancellors/presidents, chief academic/instructional officers, vice presidents of student affairs, and other higher education executive leaders. The full-day convening on September 11 is designed for higher education managers and staff members who will be “hands-on” in terms of creating, enhancing, or managing the day-to-day operation of emergency aid programs on their campuses, as well as nonprofit and community-based organizations, stakeholders, and philanthropists interested in emergency aid programs. All are welcome to attend both days.

- Methodology
- Results
- Lessons learned

2:30 p.m. The History of Direct Funding for Developing Emergency Aid Programs

TBA, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- The Gates Foundation's interest in the creation and expansion of effective emergency aid programs
- Emergency aid's role in student persistence and completion
- Grant projects completed and underway (what we've learned and what's next)

3:00 p.m. The Emergency Aid Network in Texas and Community Partnerships

Monique Lee Whitley, EA Net Program Coordinator, THECB

Heather Marsh, Executive Director, Texas Higher Education Foundation

- The Emergency Aid Network in Texas
- Reaching out to community partners

3:30 p.m. Leadership from the Top Down – The Importance of Supporting Emergency Aid Programs on Your Campus

Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President, Amarillo Community College

Dr. Richard Walker, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services for the University of Houston System and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services for the University of Houston

- Overview of emergency aid on the campus
- Transparency in communicating with education stakeholders
- How emergency aid has increased retention and completion
- Questions and answers

4:00 p.m. The Process and Benefits of Emergency Aid – Students' Perspectives

TBD – Community/Technical College Student

TBD – University Student

- The student face of emergency aid
- Overcoming reluctance to seek help
- How emergency aid has increased the social/emotional connection to the institution
- Questions and answers

4:30 p.m. Meeting Adjournment

4:30 p.m. - Networking; Meet and Greet with EA Net Members and Community Partners

6:00 p.m. *(Will include carving stations and light hors d'oeuvres)*

DAY TWO (CONVENING)

**Tuesday, September 11; 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(Registration/Buffer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.)**

8:00 a.m. Registration/Check-in/Breakfast Buffet

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

David Gardner, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy, THECB

9:15 a.m. Keynote Speaker – Best Practices in Emergency Aid Programs

Tim Renick, Ph.D., Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, Vice Provost, and Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Breakout Session One – The Nuts and Bolts of Building Effective Emergency Aid Programs

Session A – Best Practices in Administration

Lorianna Mapps, Interim Director, Integrated Enrollment Services, University of Houston

Session B – Best Practices in Communication

Teresa Riley, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and University Administration, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Session C – Best Practices in Funding and Sustaining the Program

Paul Goebel, Director, Student Money Management Center, University of North Texas

Session D – Best Practices in Automation Technology

Dede Gonzales, Associate Director, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Texas State University

11:00 a.m. Breakout Session Two – The Nuts and Bolts of Building Effective Emergency Aid Programs

Session A – Community Partnerships: Room and Board

Jordan Herrera, Director, Social Services, Amarillo College

Session B – Community Partnerships: Transportation

Katherine Dolls, Dean of Student Success, Palo Alto College

Session C – Community Partnerships: Health Care

Raven Jones, Director, Urban Experience Program, University of Houston

Session D – Technology: Outreach and Tracking

*Lisa Wilhelmi, Director of Marketing & Communication, McLennan Community College
Javier Flores, Vice President, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, Angelo State University*

11:45 a.m. Break

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

- 1:15 p.m. Breakout Session Three – The Nuts and Bolts of Building Effective Emergency Aid Programs**
- Session A – Best Practices in Administration**
Lorianna Mapps, Interim Director, Integrated Enrollment Services, University of Houston
- Session B – Best Practices in Communication**
Teresa Riley, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and University Administration, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Session C – Best Practices in Funding and Sustaining the Program**
Paul Goebel, Director, Student Money Management Center, University of North Texas
- Session D – Best Practices in Automation Technology**
Dede Gonzales, Associate Director, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Texas State University
- 2:00 p.m. Breakout Session Four – The Nuts and Bolts of Building Effective Emergency Aid Programs**
- Session A – Community Partnerships: Room and Board**
Jordan Herrera, Director, Social Services, Amarillo College
- Session B – Community Partnerships: Transportation**
Katherine Dolls, Dean of Student Success, Palo Alto College
- Session C – Community Partnerships: Health Care**
Raven Jones, Director, Urban Experience Program, University of Houston
- Session D – Technology: Outreach and Tracking**
Lisa Wilhelmi, Director of Marketing & Communication, McLennan Community College
Javier Flores, Vice President, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, Angelo State University
- 2:45 p.m. Break**
- 3:00 p.m. Plenary Speaker – James Sullivan: Reducing Poverty**
James X. Sullivan, Ph.D., Rev. Thomas J. McDonagh, C.S.C. Associate Professor of Economics, University of Notre Dame
- 3:45 p.m. The Texas Emergency Aid Network’s Policy Recommendations: Call for Input**
Monique Lee Whitley, EA Net Program Coordinator, THECB
- 4:00 p.m. Invitation for Mini-Grant Applications**
Heather Marsh, Executive Director, Texas Higher Education Foundation
- 4:15 p.m. Concluding Remarks**
Mary Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy, THECB
- 4:30 p.m. Adjournment**

KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SPEAKERS



Timothy Renick, Ph.D., is the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, Vice Provost, and Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University and winner of the 2018 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education.



James Sullivan, Ph.D., is the Rev. Thomas J. McDonagh, C.S.C. Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Notre Dame and cofounder of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO).