FINANCIAL AID GUIDANCE MEMO

REFERENCE: FA 22-005
TOPIC: OHIO WAR ORPHAN AND SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS’ CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP (WOS)
AUTHOR: RAMAH CHURCH, PROGRAM MANAGER
DATE: 21 JULY 2021
RELEVANT STATUTE: OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 5910

Ohio Revised Code
The Ohio Revised Code for the War Orphans Scholarship (WOS) can be found at: http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/5910.

This program provides undergraduate tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans, who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict.

*New* Residency
Recipients are required to be current Ohio residents as described in the Ohio Student Residency Administrative Rule, found at: http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3333-1-10/.

*New* Financial Aid Audits and Selective Service
The Ohio Revised Code authorizes the Chancellor to conduct financial aid audits of state-supported colleges and universities, proprietary, and non-profit private colleges and universities. All Ohio institutions with financial aid errors based on their prior year audit results will automatically be audited in an upcoming calendar year. Additional institutions may be audited by random selection in order to maintain our goal of auditing a set number of institutions yearly. Every institution will be audited at least once every three years. Further guidance from the Financial Aid Auditor will be forthcoming.

ODHE is aware of the recent federal implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act’s removal of selective service regarding the receipt of federal student aid, effective June 17, 2021. Ohio revised code section 3345.32 still requires compliance with the selective service law in order for a student to be eligible for any of Ohio’s state grants and scholarships. ORC 3345.32 Student Noncompliance with Selective Service can be found here: https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3345.32. As such, ODHE will still require selective service verification as part of the audit documentation process. If Ohio legislation is changed, ODHE will inform the campuses.

*Update* Award Amount
The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Board met on July 21, 2021 to approve new applicants and funding levels for the 2021-2022 academic year. After reviewing the program budget as well as projected program utilization rates, scholarship coverage for the 2021-2022 academic year will be 84% of tuition/general fees for students attending a public institution and an annual award of $7,532 for students attending a private (non-profit or for-profit) institution.
General Fees and Influence of other Tuition Specific Aid
WOS funds are available to be used toward instructional and general fees only. General fees are defined as those assessed uniformly to all students and those that do not allow for a waiver to be offered to any student(s). Any student receiving aid that can only be used towards tuition and general fees and therefore covers 100% of their tuition and general fees, is not eligible for WOS. This aid can be in the form of a waiver or institutional, athletic, third party, federal, or state aid (Ohio Safety Officers Memorial Fund).

For students receiving any tuition/general fees-specific aid not equal to 100% of their tuition/general fees, may be eligible for a partial WOS award. This other tuition/general fees-specific aid must be applied prior to the WOS award. Tuition/general fees minus tuition/general fees-specific aid equals WOS eligibility (up to the respective maximum award).

Study Abroad
Home schools need to maintain documentation that shows the course(s) being taken, tuition charges at the study abroad institution (if not recorded on transcript and account statement), and that funds were used for tuition and general fees only. The total expense of tuition and fee charges must not be more than the cost of attending the home institution during that term. The home school must keep the above documentation in case of an audit.

Utilization
Students must be Ohio residents and may receive WOS for a maximum of 15 quarters or 10 semesters of full-time undergraduate study. Prior recipients must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA. Exceptions to an institution requesting funds for a student below this cumulative GPA are as follows:

- Freshman
- Transferred from another institution
- First time recipient of the scholarship
- Previously approved appeal on file with the institution
- Documented Learning Disability
- Extenuating circumstance, as approved by the institution’s Student Services Department

*Update* Certification
Eligibility rosters for the 2021-2022 academic year are currently available to financial aid personnel. The rosters have been updated to include the new applicants approved by the War Orphans Scholarship Board at their recent meeting. Please keep in mind that schools must wait a minimum of 15 days after the start of the term before funds can be requested.

Please note that payment threshold reviews are performed with every payment file submitted. Any records with low payment amounts will require a brief explanation as to why the payment submitted was lower than a full-time rate. In addition, supporting documentation may be required, ex. a transcript showing that the student is full-time.

Please also note that the HEI system takes dollars and cents. If the institution’s system needs to round, the institution must round down as there are term caps in place.
**New** Posting of Funds
In alignment with federal policy, the institution should apply the funds requested as soon as administratively feasible but no later than three business days following the date the institution received those funds.

**New** Refunds
If a student becomes ineligible anytime in the academic year due to a reduction of credit hours, withdrawal, or receiving other tuition/fee-specific aid, and all or a portion of tuition is refunded, that same percentage will need to be returned to ODHE. A refund check must be submitted to our office within 30 days. If after 45 days the refund check is not submitted, the amount owed plus interest and any additional fees may be turned over to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for collection. Refunds should be sent by check to the attention of the OSO Program Manager and payable to:

Ohio Department of Higher Education  
Office of Financial Aid  
25 South Front Street - 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183

**WOS File Documentation**
The WOS file submission formats and reports can be found at: [https://www.ohiohighered.org/content/wos hei documentation](https://www.ohiohighered.org/content/wos hei documentation).

TO SUMMARIZE, FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF THE WAR ORPHANS SCHOLARSHIP IS:

**PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES:**
84% OF TUITION/GENERAL FEES

**PRIVATE (NON-PROFIT OR FOR-PROFIT):**
$7,532* (ANNUAL AWARD)

*$3,766 per semester OR *$2,510.66 per quarter

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to Ramah Church, Program Manager, at 614.752.9528 rchurch@highered.ohio.gov