

National Student Financial Aid Scheme

Disability Support Unit

CAMPUS

ECRDC Workshop, King William's Town: 28- 29 May 2019

DisabilitySupport@nsfas.org.za

2018 Review

Highlights

- 1756 students funded (891 in 2017)
- Payments: R74.07m (120% of budget)
- Significant increase in the number of Assistive Devices and Human Support claims submitted and approved – 282 claims worth R4.58m
- Provided on-site support and training to universities & colleges.
- Stakeholder engagements: HEDSA Symposium.
- Student engagements Held townhall sessions at
 Walter Sisulu University and University of Limpopo

Challenges

- Payments slow processing times and late submissions.
- Incorrectly funded students students can't claim assistive devices and human support
- TVETs lack of clarity on claims DHET vs NSFAS
- TVETs need for NSFAS DSU to provide more support and on-site training
- Lack of clarity on the responsibilities between Disability Units and Financial Aid Offices
- Lack of Disability Units at some institutions

2018 PAYMENT

INSTITUTION	AMOUNT PAID
University of Cape Town	621,634.00
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	1,577,771.00
Central University of Technology	385,122.00
Durban University of Technology	2,123,528.00
University of Fort Hare	2,488,530.00
University of the Free State	1,734,249.00
University of Johannesburg	3,083,844.00
University of KwaZulu-Natal	7,119,454.00
University of Limpopo	3,828,347.00
Mangosuthu University of Technology	1,507,475.00
University of Mpumalanga	
Nelson Mandela University	2,443,434.00
North West University	3,615,277.00
University of Pretoria	2,906,938.00
Rhodes University	83,600.00
Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University	193,192.00
Sol Plaatjie University	42,186.00
Stellenbosch University	659,395.00
Tshwane University of Technology	5,067,341.00
University of South Africa	800,341.00
University of Venda	23,310,801.00
Vaal University of Technology	694,026.00
University of the Western Cape	2,873,684.00
University of the Witwatersrand	2,105,472.00
Walter Sisulu University	2,563,624.00
University of Zululand	2,256,393.00
TOTAL	74,085,658.00

2019 NSFAS DISABILITY POLICY AMENDMENTS

2

1

4

Household income cap: R600 000 (from R400k) Medical allowance (for assessments): R2 000 pa. Invoice required

Human Support – introduction of a claim form. To be accompanied certified ID copy of carer.

2019 Assistive Device cap = R47 000 (once off) Human Support definition expanded to include Guide Dogs and other 2019 Human Support

2019 Human Suppo cap = R47 000 per annum

3

Academic Criteria – 75% pass rate & N+3 rules remains unchanged



5

Co-Funding – Privately funded students allowed to claim for assistive devices and human support

2019 So Far...

Highlights

- Disabled applicants assessed with the DSU
- Disability funded lists communicated early in the year.
- Registration Template re-designed and simplified
- Policy review completed
- Budget allocation increased to R91 million.
- NSFAS invited to be part of DHET's National Task Team on Disability in the TVET sector.
- Establishment of a temporary TVET Disability Fund at an advanced stage (NSFAS in discussions with DHET & Treasury).
- Stakeholder engagements: HEDSA Symposium.
- Student engagements Held townhall sessions at
 Walter Sisulu University and University of Limpopo

Challenges

- Low submission rates (less than 100 claims received)
- Disabled students excluded from up-front payments (need for intra-institution activism) – key part of mainstreaming. Who fights for these students' rights?
- Lack of Disability Units at some institutions
- Incorrectly funded students students can't claim assistive devices and human support
- TVETs lack of clarity on claims DHET vs NSFAS
- TVETs need for NSFAS DSU to provide more support and on-site training
- Lack of clarity on the responsibilities between Disability Units and Financial Aid Offices
- Need to strengthen partnerships with institutions and students – move away from a query-based relationship.





Thank you

DisabilitySupport@nsfas.org.za

4