

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

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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

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



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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

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