



**TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD**
Agency Operations and Communications
P.O. Box 12788 Austin, Texas 78711

TO: Financial Aid Directors
Texas Public and Private/Independent Institutions of Higher Education

FROM: DeChà Reid, Director, Financial Aid Services

DATE: October 4, 2017

RE: Disaster Pay for Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) Students

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The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) requested that the Office of the Governor waive Texas Education Code Chapter 56, Subchapter E and Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter G for the Texas College Work-Study program based on the impact caused by Hurricane Harvey. THECB request that participants in TCWS be waived from work requirements and allowed to receive wages for time they would have worked subject to the same guidelines issued by the Department of Education (ED) for the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program.

The Office of the Governor granted THECB's request to temporarily suspend those statutes and rules necessary to allow institutions of higher education to disburse TCWS funds to participating students who are prevented from fulfilling their work obligation due to Hurricane Harvey. To align with ED's guidelines in **GEN-17-08 "General Guidance for Disasters"**, THECB will apply the same directive for the TCWS program on making certain TCWS payments.

THECB will allow an institution in an area affected by a major disaster to only make payments to disaster-affected students for the period of time (not exceed the award period) in which the students were prevented from fulfilling their TCWS obligations due to the disaster. TCWS payments may be made for an amount equal to or less than the amount of TCWS wages the students would have been paid had the students been able to complete the work obligation necessary to receive the funds; and must meet the matching requirements, unless those requirements are waived by ED.

TCWS payments may not be made to a student who was ineligible for the TCWS program, did not complete the work obligation necessary to receive the funds, or had already separated from the student's employment prior to the occurrence of the major disaster.

The suspension on statutes and rules is in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor, or until the Hurricane Harvey disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

For questions or concerns, please contact Financial Aid Services at 1-844-792-2640 or [CONTACT US](#). (Select the "Work Study Programs" option in the drop-down selection under **Contact Reason**).

cc: Ken Martin, Assistant Commissioner
Charles W. Puls, Ed.D., Deputy Assistant Commissioner