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An **Emergency Aid fund** is a tax-free investment account that generates a source of charitable dollars to help reduce financial hardship for students seeking to continue their post-secondary education.

At the **Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Foundation** (PASSHE Foundation), we ensure that your Emergency Aid funds support students who are experiencing a financial crisis. We leverage our knowledge of the PASSHE institutions, community supports and the Emergency Aid process to ensure your investment can provide the greatest impact.

**How an Emergency Aid Fund Works**

* **Getting involved and helping to make a difference** with an initial gift to the PASSHE Foundation of cash or other assets, such as appreciated stock, mutual funds, or real estate. Most establishing gifts are tax-deductible.
* **The PASSHE Foundation assists with promoting and marketing Emergency Aid** through our relationships with the PASSHE Universities, our website, social media, and other forms of outreach.
* **Students apply online.** By completing a brief online application, we decrease barriers and increase students’ ease of access in requesting the help they need.
* **The PASSHE Foundation verifies applicants’ enrollment and eligibility with their approved educational institutions.**
* **The PASSHE Foundation distributes funds** directly to the student’s financial stressor within 24-48 hours. The rapid turnaround time ensures students receive this critical support during unexpected financial hardship.
* **Add to your fund at any time** to take advantage of additional tax benefits while increasing the Emergency Aid fund and increasing the number of students we can support.
* **Reports** will be distributed to donors annually, providing insight into how your investment has meaningfully impacted the well-being and success of our students.

As the PASSHE FOUNDATION handles the administrative requirements, all funds are subject to a fee based on the necessary management and oversight.

*An Emergency Aid fund investment at the PASSHE Foundation is a powerful gift that will change students’ lives by enriching their educational opportunities. To begin the process of contributing towards an existing or establishing a new Emergency Aid fund, please contact Dana Levine Kunzman, Vice President for Strategic Innovation, at* *DLKunzman@thepafoundation.org**.*