



## University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Supporting Our Students (S.O.S.) Emergency Student Relief Fund

**How does your organization utilize coaching in their work? Is it with individuals or in a group setting?**

Financial Coaching is an essential part of the SOS Emergency program. Our philosophy is that it is one element to provide aid, and the next step is to provide students with skills and knowledge that may assist them in acquiring better overall financial health. We started with individual sessions only and will begin to offer group sessions starting fall 2019.

**What are the goals of your organization?**

Primarily to assist students in an emergency to ideally lessen or eliminate the likelihood they may need to "stop out" of school. Financial insecurity has become one of the top reasons students "drop out/stop out" of school. This impacts their overall progression and subsequent completion. In addition, the SOS program seeks to provide students with the opportunity to augment current knowledge regarding financial health.

**How does coaching support the goals of your organization?**

If a student is awarded SOS funds, a requirement is they must schedule and attend one financial coaching session. Beginning fall 2019, students will be able to register for financial coaching without having received funds.

## What is one success story you would like to share?

This was shared by one of our SOS coaches, Kelle Snow. What I consider to be one of the great successes we've had so far with Financial Coaching is the connections we've been able to make with students. Several of us coaches have had students who have come in for second and even third coaching sessions.

For me in particular, there is one young lady who I've been able to form a relationship with over the past few months that I really value. She has spent hours in my office asking questions, talking through new ideas and engaging so deeply in the finance curriculum. Meeting with her is such a joy for me because she is intensely curious and engaged. Plus I can see how the financial coaching is impacting her life. We jump down rabbit hole after rabbit hole together as she realizes that financial literacy has ramifications for all facets of her future. She has made a budget, figured out why her late father made her get a credit card, delineated simple and compound interest, set a savings plan for her next vacation to see her family, and even talked about amortization schedules and what it'll mean for her in the future when she buys a house. I look forward to my next session with her in the Fall and all of the questions I'm sure she will ask.

## Have you encountered any barriers to your organization using coaching?

We have not... the only thing is we have more demand coming and anticipate need to work with our university staff as well as students. We will move in the direction that is needed!

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### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must have a financial hardship resulting from a sudden or unexpected occurrence especially requiring help or relief;
- Applicants must be currently enrolled UNLV students;
- Applicants must be in good academic standing (Undergraduate GPA 2.0 or Graduate GPA 2.75) and conduct with UNLV;
- All other resources must have been considered and are insufficient, unavailable, or not available in a timely manner;
- An individual is eligible once per academic year to receive emergency assistance;
- Applicants must complete the request and submit supporting documentation;
- Upon receipt of emergency funds, the applicant is required to schedule and to attend a MINIMUM of one (1) financial coaching session; and
- Fund disbursement will not exceed \$500.

### Application Process

Students in need who meet the eligibility requirements may submit an email request and supporting documentation to [COE.SOS@unlv.edu](mailto:COE.SOS@unlv.edu). Requests must include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Detail of the emergency or need
- Approximate amount needed
- What additional resources or assistance has been sought and obtained

Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Medical bills
- Income verification
- Estimates for repairs
- Documentary evidence (photographs or videos)
- Letters of support (usually witnesses of your need)

Requests will be reviewed by the S.O.S. Disbursement Committee to determine approval and funding amount. Applicants may be asked to meet with members of the committee to discuss their application. Upon approval, funds disburse within 7-10 business days and post to students' UNLV account.

### Strengthen Your Financial Literacy Skills!

Charles Schwab has generously provided funding for UNLV staff/faculty to be trained as Financial Coaches by the Opportunity Alliance Nevada (OANV) Financial Coaching Institute. Accredited by the Center for Credentialing Education, UNLV Financial Coaches are here to provide interested students with information on financial topics, including but not limited to:

- Financial Health Model
- Goal Setting
- Income Generation
- Spending Plans
- Debt Alleviation

Financial coaching sessions are FREE and open to ALL current UNLV undergraduate and graduate students.

Email [COE.SOS@unlv.edu](mailto:COE.SOS@unlv.edu) to schedule a session today!



Website: [unlv.edu/education/sosfund](http://unlv.edu/education/sosfund)

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