



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Press Release

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**CHED-OIC De Vera instructs immediate release of funds
for ESGP-PA scholars**

Funds for the stipend of Expanded Students' Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA) scholars in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) that have billed the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) – Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) will be released starting today.

This is the statement of CHED-UniFAST Officer in Charge Dr. J. Prospero de Vera III to address the concerns of ESGP-PA beneficiaries during the transition of the ESGP-PA scholarship funds from the SUCs to CHED-UniFAST under RA 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA).

Prior to RA 10931, the selection and validation of scholars was with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and funding was directly lodged by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the SUCs. Under RA 10931, all continuing ESGP-PA scholars are included as beneficiaries of the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES), which received an allocation of PhP16B.

ESGP-PA beneficiaries are poor but deserving students belonging to families listed in the DSWD's *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps). They are currently enrolled in selected SUCs taking up CHED priority programs and other courses offerings within the government's key growth areas.

Several problems were encountered in the transition of the ESGP-PA program from the DSWD and SUCs to CHED-UniFAST. Some scholars failed to receive their stipends early this year when their SUCs failed to obligate their payment of AY 2017-2018 2nd semester stipends in December 2017. The inclusion of ESGP-PA scholars in the TES database under RA 10931 also caused the late submission of the list of scholars of some SUCs.

CHED-UniFAST is releasing today PhP228 Million to cover the billing of 55 SUCs who have complete documentation. The billing request of another 37 SUCs are now being processed by the UniFAST Secretariat and CHED Administrative and Finance Service in the amount of PhP216 Million. The remaining 17 SUCs still have deficiencies in their billing statements and are awaiting evaluation on required compliances.

For more information, please visit www.ched.gov.ph or the official UniFAST Facebook Page www.facebook.com/unifastofficial or email unifastsecretariat@ched.gov.ph

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