

Emergency Federal Grants to Students Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act NJIT Policy

In the third phase of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the U.S. Department of Education has made Emergency Financial Aid Grants available for eligible students who experienced unforeseen emergency expenses, **related to the disruption of campus operations** due to coronavirus. Such expenses related to the disruption of campus operations include eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. Such students are those that have filed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for spring or 2020-2021 FAFSA for the fall semester, and met the federal aid eligibility criteria. The criteria to participate in federal programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting. Further, students who were exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date the President declared a national emergency due to COVID-19 outbreak, are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants. Finally, the CARES Act requires institutions to provide the emergency financial aid grants directly to students, and therefore, grants cannot be used to satisfy students' outstanding account balances.

Eligibility Criteria

Only enrolled students who were on-campus at the time of disruption who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. Such students are those that have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and meet the federal aid eligibility criteria. Eligible students are those with emergency expenses due to the disruption of campus operations because of COVID-19. Other relief grants will be provided to the extent possible in cases where students do not meet the general guidelines.

Application Requirements

All requests require an online application submission with subsequent applications permitted if need arises. Supporting documentation is encouraged if reasonably possible to obtain, but not required.

Date of Impact

March 12, 2020, which is the beginning of the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus.

Funding Determination and Timeline

Funds will be determined based on the amount requested but no more than the \$6,195 maximum Pell Grant amount (for 19-20), depending on level of student need. First preference will be given to those demonstrating the highest need, which are those with a Pell Grant eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC), following non-Pell Grant eligible EFC students, and other FAFSA-filing students. Fund requests will be considered on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The review process will begin as soon as the federal funds are received. The student notification will be delivered within three business days from the date of the decision.

Expenses Limitations

In cases where there is federal and state relief already available, the committee reserves the right to deny or approve the request to avoid duplicating the relief. Such is the case with the loss of employment where there is present relief provided by the New Jersey Unemployment Agency. Further, the New Jersey Governor's Executive Order that prohibits eviction or foreclosure proceedings will be considered in related requests.

Other limitations include technology expenses that would have existed prior to the COVID-19 impact such as students who were already enrolled in on-line courses.

The committee may use discretion to consider extraordinary circumstances.

Impact on Aid Package

Emergency Grants under the CARES Act are not considered estimated financial assistance and therefore, are excluded from the aid package as well as untaxed income. As such, these grants do not adversely affect students' aid.

Fund Distribution

Under the CARES Act, these funds will be provided directly to students. Such funds will not be used to pay down current student balances.

Emergency Grant CARES Act Committee

The committee will consist of staff representing the Dean of Students Office, Office of Student Financial Aid Services, and the Office of Student Persistence. The designated grant PI will be the Director of Financial Aid.

Grant Disbursements and Delivery

For those signed up for direct deposit, funds will transfer to their bank account; otherwise, a check will be mailed to the student's address on file. Students are highly encouraged to set up direct deposit, which is a safe, secure and efficient way of receiving a refund directly to your bank account. If you have signed up for direct deposit for payroll, this does not mean you are signed up for refund direct deposit. For more

information on the Direct Deposit enrollment process, please visit the Refund Information section of the [Bursar's Office website](#).