



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

CARES Act Guidelines For Awarding Student Emergency Grants

Overview:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund and sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

CARES Act grants will be made to students based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) reported in a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2019-2020 or 2020-2021. Consistent with U.S. Department of Education guidance, distribution will be based on a tiered approach with students with the greatest need, according to their EFC, being awarded higher amounts.

Eligibility:

In the initial distribution, all undergraduate, graduate and professional students enrolled exclusively in on-campus degree or certificate programs during the Spring 2020 semester who meet the criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education detailed below and have completed a FAFSA for 2020 or 2021 as of May 1 are eligible for these emergency grants. The Office of Student Financial Aid will use FAFSA data to determine eligibility and the amount of the grant based on EFC tiers.

Additionally, students who meet the criteria and complete a FAFSA by June 1, but who did not receive funds in the initial distribution, are eligible for an emergency grant on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted. Students who are eligible but have not yet filed a FAFSA for 2019-20 or 2020-21 can do so on the [Federal Student Aid](#) website.

By accepting the funds, students are confirming that they incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care or childcare costs.

Students may decline part or all of the funds, in which case those funds will go into the pool to be made available to other qualified students in need. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at treainfo@uark.edu to decline the funds.

U.S. Department of Education Eligibility Requirements for CARES funding:

These requirements will be verified by the U of A through submitted FAFSA documents.

- U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- Valid Social Security number
- Registered with Selective Service if the student is a male
- Earned a high school diploma, GED or completed high school in an approved homeschool setting
- Student is not in default on a Title IV loan
- Certification of a statement of educational purpose
- Student does not owe a refund on grants previously received at any college
- Maintaining the minimum satisfactory academic progress standards
- Student has not been convicted of a crime involving fraud in obtaining Federal financial aid
- Student has not been convicted of a drug offense while receiving Federal financial aid

Distribution Process and Tiered Distribution Chart:

Eligibility will be determined by the university through FAFSA documents and distribution will begin without any additional application process required by students. Funds will be distributed to eligible students through [BankMobile](#) based on the refunding preference students have selected: 1) direct deposit to an existing bank account or 2) direct deposit to a BankMobile VIBE Checking Account.

If a student has not already done so, a BankMobile account will need to be set up and [refund delivery preference](#) designated as soon as possible to receive these funds. Please [contact BankMobile](#) directly with questions regarding delivery preference. It is also recommended that students update their mailing address in UAConnect.

Tiered Distribution Chart:

The tiered distribution approach was established in alignment with U.S. Department of Education guidance encouraging institutions to take need into account, and is broadly consistent with the process used to allocate CARES Act funds to institutions. The University's approach awards the highest amount to students who receive Pell grants based on need, and then scales amounts awarded to other students based on expected financial contribution as calculated under federal guidelines.

EFC TIERS	AWARDED AMOUNT
PELL RECIPIENTS	\$725
\$0-\$10,000	\$625
\$10,001-\$25,000	\$500
\$25,000-\$49,000	\$400
>\$49,000	\$300