

What is the CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided by the federal government?

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 the pandemic.

When will CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds be available?

Fresno Pacific applied for funding from the federal CARES Act on April 11, 2020 and we began disbursing funds to student the week of April 27, 2020. Recipients will be notified via a message to their FPU email account.

Who is eligible for the CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?

Each recipient's grant eligibility was determined based upon the requirements of the CARES Act, guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and criteria developed by Fresno Pacific University.

Selected recipients are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, have a 2019-2020 FAFSA on file at FPU and are enrolled in at least one unit during the spring 2020 semester as of April 22, 2020.

Additional items taken into consideration include the term of your graduation, student account balance, current enrollment status and if you are enrolled in an eligible program.

Priority for funding was given to students with the highest demonstrated financial need, including those eligible for a Pell Grant, Cal Grant or employed in Federal Work-Study jobs.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students or students enrolled in distance-only degree programs. If you are a student from one of these groups, there may be other types of emergency aid from FPU available. Please see the questions below for details on applying for these emergency aid programs.

What is a CARES Emergency Student Assistance Grant?

The CARES Act directed universities to prioritize students whose family income is in the low- to low-middle income categories and FPU wants to provide economic relief quickly to students who may have experienced additional expenses and/or a loss of income in spring semester due to COVID-19. We have

used the CARES Act emergency aid funds to provide grants between \$185 and \$1,480 to 2,650 students.

These funds are meant to help students pay expenses for tuition and fees, technology, health care, child care, course materials, rent, food moving or other expenses incurred this quarter. If you have yet to experience financial stress due to COVID-19, these funds can help with unanticipated expenses or income loss that may occur throughout the quarter and into future quarters.

Why didn't I receive a CARES Emergency Student Assistance Grant?

Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, students who are not eligible for federal financial aid programs are not eligible for federal CARES grants. However, the Fresno Pacific may be able to help you with [Additional Aid](#) from other institutional or private donations. These funds are limited, but we encourage you to apply. We will review your request and determine if we can offer you assistance.

If you are eligible for federal aid, but did not receive a CARES Emergency Student Assistance Grant described above, you can notify our office for a review of your situation by submitting a request for [Additional Aid Request](#)

In general, you probably didn't receive a grant because you may not have appeared to meet the criteria used to determine student eligibility. However, we know that many families' income is in flux or there may be additional expenses associated due to the pandemic. We need to hear from you in order to determine if we can offer you funds too. **Please file the additional financial aid request to help with your immediate needs and consider filing a request for change in income or expenses for other financial aid funds for longer term and future needs.** You can find more information about filing for a change in income or expenses by contacting your Student Financial Services Advisor.

What emergency relief funds are available for undocumented students?

While the U.S. Department of Education does not allow CARES funding to provide grants to undocumented students, additional financial assistance from Fresno Pacific University has limited funds available to assist with unexpected financial hardship. Please complete the request for [Additional Aid Request](#) form.

What emergency relief funds are available for international students?

Unfortunately, under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, international students are not eligible for the federal CARES funds. International students who need emergency aid assistance are encouraged to file an [Additional Aid Request](#). Please note that these funds are limited.

What if I need additional financial assistance?

We have reserved a limited amount of CARES Act funding to provide additional financial assistance of up to \$500 to students facing significant unexpected hardship such as the inability to pay for food or rent due to loss of employment, medical expenses, etc. If you are experiencing these circumstances, we encourage you to submit an [Additional Aid Request](#) form which is also available by emailing sfs@fresno.edu or calling 559-453-2041. Requests will be reviewed and funds awarded until they run out.

Who can I contact if I have a question about these grants?

Please contact [Student Financial Services](#) with your additional questions.