FA FAQs

Emergency Financial Aid Grants

I had COVID-19 emergency. Can I get additional financial assistance?

Yes, if you are currently enrolled and you 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). Such students are those that have filed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the spring and summer semesters, and met the federal aid eligibility criteria. Eligible students are those with emergency expenses due to the disruption of campus operations because of COVID-19. Eligible expenses include items in the cost of attendance such as course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare. Other relief grants will be provided to the extent possible in cases where students do not meet the general guidelines.

How do I apply for CARES Act funding?

Please complete the Emergency Grants Fund form.

Can I apply for the CARES Act funding more than once?

 Yes, students can apply more than once as the need arises.

What are the qualifications to receive funding via the CARES Act?

All current and enrolled FAFSA-filing students with emergency expenses due to the DISRUPTION OF CAMPUS OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF COVID-19 can apply. Emergency expenses include items in the cost of attendance such as course materials and technology as well as food, housing, healthcare, and childcare. You must have filed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the spring and summer semesters, and meet the federal aid eligibility criteria.

Do I need to attach any supporting documentation to my application?

Students are encouraged to submit supporting documentation as applicable and as best as you can although it is not required.

What if my application is denied for the CARES Act funding?

Other relief grants will be provided to the extent possible in cases where students do not meet the general guidelines.

What if I am getting an error message trying to access the application?

The application can be opened only using your UCID account. If you get an error while opening the application form, please try the following ways to access the form:

1. Open the application in different browser where you are not already logged into any email account.

2. Close all the email accounts and only have NJIT email account open in the browser.

What if I have emergency expenses that occurred prior to March 12; will my application be considered?

Any COVID-19 related emergency expenses such as items in the cost of attendance as mentioned above, incurred before March 12, 2020, which is the beginning of the disruption of campus operations, are considered non-COVID-19 related and therefore ineligible for CARES Act funding.

If approved, how much will I receive and when can I expect to receive my funding?

Fund amounts varies and are on a case-by-case basis but may not exceed the maximum Pell award amount ($6,195 for 19-20 and $6,345 for 20-21). If your application is approved, and you are signed up for direct deposition, the funds will be on your account as soon as it is posted. If you are not set up for direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed in a few weeks. We encourage all students to sign up for direct deposit by following the instructions on the Bursar's website.

Are rental or mortgage expenses considered as part of the CARES Act funding?

Meeting rental or mortgage payments may be a valid emergency expense. However, in cases where federal and state relief is 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 may be 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.

Since NJIT is closed how will I receive my funds?

We encourage you to sign up for Direct Deposit using a valid checking account number. This is the fastest to receive the funds. If you have not signed up for direct deposit, a paper check will be processed and mailed.

Below are the step-by-step instructions on how to enroll in Direct Deposit:

1. Click "MyNJIT Login" on www.njit.edu and log in using your NJIT UCID and password 2. Click on "Student Services" in the left-hand column 3. Click on the link "Create/Update Direct Deposit Allocation" in either the My Bursar Account or the Online Services section of the page 4. Click on "Add New" in the Accounts Payable Deposit section of the page 5. Click "Create New" 6. Enter Bank Routing Number, Account Number, and Select Account Type (click "i" by each for more information). 7. Check the authorization box and Click "Save New Deposit".

Can I apply the CARES funds to my existing balance at NJIT?

The Emergency Financial Aid grants cannot be used to satisfy current student balances

Will receipt of these funds impact my 2019-2020 financial aid award in any way?

No. Because these are emergency funds, they will not be included as a resource on your aid package and will not be considered untaxed income.

Do I need to file a 2019-2020 FAFSA and be a financial aid recipient in order to receive funding via the CARES Act?

Yes, a FAFSA is required to determine if you meet the Title IV federal aid eligibility criteria. To file the 2019-2020 FAFSA please go to: www.fafsa.gov

What type of expenses are covered?

Expenses covered must relate to disruptions to education due to the COVID-19 outbreak and because of the disruption of campus operations, including such items in the cost of attendance such as course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare.

If I lost my job can I apply for the Emergency Financial Aid grant?

If you were employed on-campus as a student worker under the Institutional Work-Study (IWS) Program and your duties were suspended because they could not be performed remotely, then your job loss was a result of the disruption of campus operations. Therefore, you may be eligible for the grant to pay for emergency expenses in the cost of attendance such as course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare. You will not receive the equivalent of your lost wages but only the expenses stated on your application such as expenses course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare that you no longer can pay due to the loss of your on-campus job will be considered.

If I am enrolled in an online program and taking online courses this semester, can I apply for the Emergency Financial Aid grant?

Students who were exclusively in an online program for the spring semester are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.

If I did not file a 2019-2020 FAFSA, can I apply now so I can qualify for the CARES Act?

Yes, you may still submit a 2019-2020 FAFSA and submit an application for the CARES Act.