

Emergency Federal Grants under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)

Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, NJIT received \$12,191,985 in emergency federal funds to make available to students to be used for any component of the cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care or childcare. Such emergencies include costs incurred as of the March 13, 2020, the date of the declaration of a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak. The University will implement the distribution of funds in phases, where Phase I begins with those who demonstrate need and in Phase II the distribution will encompass all eligible students (including international, DACA and any other non-citizens). These funds are required to be prioritized to students with exceptional need, as defined by NJIT as those with a Federal Pell-Grant eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC \$0 - \$5,846 for 21-22 or \$0 - \$6206 for 22-23) or non-Pell-eligible EFC students who are recipients or eligible for specific need-based funds (Federal SEOG, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Subsidized Loan, NJ Tuition Aid Grant, or NJ Educational Opportunity Fund) or have need greater than zero. For international, DACA and other non-citizens, students must apply and explain their need.

Eligibility Criteria

- Enrolled on or after March 13, 2020
- Enrolled in a degree-granting program, certificate program, and other non-credit programs
- Demonstrate need
 - Domestic students, FAFSA filers: must have a Pell-eligible EFC of \$0 - \$5846 (for the 2021-2022 academic year) or \$0 - \$6206 (for the 2022-2023 academic year); or non-Pell-EFC but eligible for any of the following need-based awards: Federal SEOG, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Subsidized Loan, NJ Tuition Aid Grant, or NJ Educational Opportunity Fund or have gross need greater than zero.
 - International, DACA and other non-citizens: must apply to explain financial need and demonstrate how finances changed in the household such that contributed to their need (such as a loss of job, illness, or death of a family member, or other emergencies).
 - Must not have other scholarships, grants and/or fellowships that already meet the cost of attendance.

Application Requirements

Requests require an online application submission with subsequent applications permitted if need arises, subject to the grant award limits. Supporting documentation is encouraged if reasonably possible to obtain, but not required. NJIT reserves the right to request additional documentation when it is warranted.

Funding Determination and Timeline

The amount of the emergency grant awards will be determined based on the students' answer to the online application survey and their need assessment. Students will be required to rank their needs, and the University will consider the ranked need up to the maximum limits, subject to available funds. The maximum limit for a student with a Pell-eligible EFC may not exceed \$6,495 (the maximum Pell Grant amount for the 2021-2022 academic year, or \$6,895 for the 2022-2023 academic year). The maximum limit for those who do not have a Pell-eligible-EFC but are recipients/eligible for specific need-based awards (TAG, EOF, SEOG, Federal Work-Study, or Federal Direct Subsidized Loans) or whose gross need is greater than zero, is \$4,230.

During Phase 1, Pell-eligible-EFC and non-Pell-eligible-EFC and those recipients who are eligible for need-based funds or have gross need greater than zero, as mentioned above, will be the priority. Effective December 8, 2021, NJIT will implement Phase II which includes international, DACA and other non-citizens. The maximum award for Phase II student population is \$4,230 (if #1 priority is balance, the amount varies depending on the balance amount that hinders the student's ability to register). Student should allow up to 3 weeks for award determination and 7 to 10 business days for refunds, if applicable. You will receive an email about the decision after the review is made by the committee.

Limitation of Application Submission Frequency

Students will be allowed to submit one application per term. The committee reserves the right to consider subsequent applications if the need is warranted.

Expense 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. The committee may use discretion to consider extraordinary circumstances.

Impact on Aid Package

The U.S. Department of Education determined that any aid received by victims of a declared emergency for purposes of providing financial relief will not be counted as income for the calculation of financial aid eligibility nor is this grant counted as aid received. The State of New Jersey will consider this as income when evaluating a student's eligibility for state Tuition Aid Grants (TAG) and other state aid programs administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA).

Emergency Grant ARP Act Committee

The committee will consist of staff representing the Dean of Students Office, Office of Student Financial Aid Services, Associate Vice Provost, and the Finance team. The designated grant PI will be the Executive Director of Student Financial Aid Services.

Grant Disbursements and Delivery

Students who elect to use funds towards their tuition balance and have made it one of their top need priorities on their application, and provide the authorization to NJIT to disburse funds to the account, will have funds applied to their account. However, students who select funds to be used for other indirect cost of attendance components (non-NJIT meals, non-NJIT housing, books, technology expenses, or transportation, etc.) will receive a refund for the approved amount. 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.