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 statuses). 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) or non-Pell-eligible EFC students who are recipients of specific need-based funds (Federal SEOG, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Subsidized Loan, NJ Tuition Aid Grant, or NJ Educational Opportunity Fund).

Eligibility Criteria

- Enrolled on or after March 13, 2020
- Enrolled in a degree-granting program, certificate program, and other non-credit programs
- Citizens, permanent residents, international students, DACA and students in other statuses (such as refugees, asylum seekers, and other similar undocumented students) with exception need are eligible
- Demonstrate need

Application Requirements

All 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.

Funding Determination and Timeline

The amount of the emergency grant awards will be determined based on the students’ answer to the online application survey. Students will be required to rank their needs, and the University will consider the top two ranked needs 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 21-22, and depending on level of student need). The maximum limit for those who do not have a Pell-eligible-EFC but are recipients of specific need-based awards (TAG, EOF, SEOG, Federal Work-Study, or Federal Direct Subsidized Loans), is $4,230. During Phase 1, Pell-eligible-EFC and non-Pell-eligible-EFC and recipients of need-based funds as mentioned above will be the priority. Please allow up to 14 business days 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.

Updated 8/20/21
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, and the Office of Student Persistence. The designated grant PI will be the Director of Financial Aid.

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, will have funds applied to their account while 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) 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.