

Emergency Federal Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and Education Stabilization Fund NJIT Policy January 19, 2021

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, the \$82 billion Education Stabilization Fund incorporates emergency funds for student grants similar to the CARES Act grant. The allowable uses of funds are more flexible than the CARES Act grant as it allows funds to be distributed to even those enrolled exclusively in distance education and those in continuing education and non-credit programs. The emergency grants may be used to cover any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 as of March 13, 2020, including tuition, food, housing, health care and childcare. Priority will be given to students with exceptional financial need such as those who receive Pell Grants followed by other students.

Eligibility Criteria

Enrolled students who demonstrate a need for emergency grants. Such needs may include assistance to cover any component of the cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise as a result of COVID-19 and as of March 13, 2020 such as tuition, food, housing, health care and childcare. Pell recipients will be prioritized in the awarding process. Although a FAFSA application is not required, it is encouraged to better assess a student's need. If a FAFSA is not in file, student must certify on the application that he/she meets need. The grant regulations excludes DACA and students without a permanent residence status.

Application Requirements

All requests require an online application submission with subsequent applications permitted if need arises. Supporting documentation is encouraged if reasonably possible to obtain, but not required.

Funding Determination and Timeline

Timeline Funds will be determined based on the amount requested but no more than the \$6,345 maximum Pell Grant amount (for 20-21), depending on level of student need. First preference will be given to those demonstrating the highest need, which are those with a Pell Grant eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC), following the non-Pell Grant eligible EFC students, and other eligible students. Funding determination and fund requests will be considered on a first-come-first-serve basis subject to the availability of funds. The student notification will be delivered weekly as students are awarded and therefore, students can view the award amounts online on their Highlander Portal.

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

No impact on the aid package per federal regulations.

Emergency Grant CARES 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 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, transportation, healthcare or childcare) 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](#).