

# Emergency Federal Grants to Students under American Rescue Act Supplemental Grant (ARP) FAQs

## How do I apply for Emergency Grant funding?

If you meet the eligibility guidelines, you can proceed to apply depending on your status:

- o US citizens or FAFSA filers: [Emergency Federal Grants Request Form](#) *(To avoid any issues accessing the application, make sure to close all email accounts and only have NJIT email account open in the browser)*
- o International, DACA and other non-citizens: [Emergency Federal Grant Request Form](#) (if you cannot access the application, it is because you do not meet the criteria)

## Can I apply for the Emergency Grant funding more than once?

Generally, one application per semester is allowed, however, if there is an unusual circumstance that requires another application, the committee will use their discretion to determine if it is warranted.

## What are the qualifications to receive funding via the ARP Act?

- Enrolled on or after March 13, 2020
- Enrolled in a degree-granting program, certificate program, and other non-credit programs
- Must not have other scholarships, grants and/or fellowships that already meet the cost of attendance.
- Demonstrate need
  - o Domestic students, FAFSA filers: must have a Pell-eligible EFC (\$0 - \$5846 for the 21-22 award year or \$0 - \$6206 for the 22-23 award year) or non-Pell EFC students who are 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.
  - o 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).

## 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. The committee reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation when it is warranted.

## Are Federal Emergency Grants considered untaxed income or does it apply under the “public charge” rule?

Receipt of a Federal Emergency Grant under HEERF, is not considered taxable income. As explained by the [Internal Revenue Service](#), HEERF Emergency Grants, like other emergency educational assistance measures, are not included in a student’s gross income, and therefore, not taxable. Further, receipt of these grants are not considered in determining whether a person is likely to become a “[public charge](#).” Under the 1999 Field Guidance for immigration officials and relevant Foreign Affairs Manual instructions

(for U.S. State Department officials), neither emergency disaster relief nor educational assistance is considered in a public charge determination.

#### **Are DACA or international students eligible for this grant?**

Yes, DACA or international students who apply and demonstrate need will be eligible.

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

Fund amounts varies depending on the answers to the online application/survey and the level of need. However, the amount of the award for Pell-eligible EFC students may not exceed the maximum Pell award amount (\$6,495 for the 21-22 AY or \$6895 for the 22-23 AY) and \$4,230 for non-Pell-eligible EFC students awarded specific need-based funds (i.e., TAG, EOF, Federal Work-Study, SEOG, and/or Federal Direct Subsidized Loan) or who have gross need greater than zero. For international, DACA and other non-citizens, the maximum award will be \$4,230. In addition, for those selecting balance as their priority on the application, the maximum award for Phase II students will vary on the need and depending on the amount owed. Those who face a financial hold due to owing a significant balance, will receive a higher award (up to \$4,230) than those who owe less (in such case the maximum award for balance will be \$2,115). If your application is approved, and you are signed up for direct deposit, 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. Students who elect to use funds to pay for tuition and fees and other expenses on the bill such as housing and meals will be used to pay those charges and no refund will be issued.

#### **Can I apply the Emergency Grant funds to my existing balance at NJIT?**

Yes, funds can be used towards your tuition and fee expense but you must specify that on your application and you must make this need one of your **top priorities** when you are requested to rank your needs on the online application.

#### **Can I use emergency funds to cover housing and meal expenses even though these charges are already covered by my scholarships?**

No, funds cannot be used to duplicate a benefit student is already receiving from a scholarship.

#### **Do I need to file a FAFSA and be a financial aid recipient in order to receive funding via the ARP?**

Current legislation does not require that you file a FAFSA. However, students are highly encouraged to file a FAFSA so need can be adequately assessed. Those who cannot file a FAFSA, will be part of the Phase II process where an online application must be submitted and need explained.

#### **What type of expenses are covered?**

Any component of the student's cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and meals, books/supplies, transportation and other miscellaneous), or emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 and as of March 13, 2020 (including tuition, food, housing, healthcare and childcare). Under books/supplies, technology costs such as a computer, printer, and webcam can be covered.

#### **If I am living on campus, can I request emergency funds to cover my on-campus housing expenses?**

No, if you are living on campus then the housing expense will be covered under your balance by the emergency funds. If you do not live on campus then you should choose the option to cover your housing expenses.

#### **Can I request funds to cover a past balance from Fall 2019?**

No, only balances incurred as of the pandemic date of March 13, 2020 and other emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 are allowed.

#### **Are rental or mortgage expenses considered as part of the ARP Act funding?**

Funds can be used to cover any component of the student's cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and meals, books/supplies, transportation and other miscellaneous), or emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 (including tuition, food, housing, healthcare and childcare). Since rental or mortgage payments are valid components of the student's cost of attendance funds can be used to cover the expense but not to exceed the maximum award limits.

#### **What if I have emergency expenses that are not part of my cost of attendance?**

Funds can be used to cover any component of the student's cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and meals, books/supplies, transportation and other miscellaneous), or emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 (including tuition, food, housing, healthcare and childcare).

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

Yes, you can apply to cover expenses part of your cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and meals, books/supplies, transportation and other miscellaneous), or emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 (including tuition, food, housing, healthcare and childcare). Under books/supplies, technology costs such as a computer, printer, and webcam can be covered.

#### **If I received ARP Grant funds to cover technology expenses such as a computer, can I request emergency funds to cover technology expenses again?**

You may request to cover technology expenses so long as it is not an expense already covered (such as a computer) under the CARES or ARP grant previously received.

#### **Can I apply to cover more than one expense?**

Yes, but it is not guaranteed that you will receive the funds for all expenses as it depends on the amount available as well as maximum award limit and how you ranked the need. On the application, you will be requested to prioritize your expenses to be covered and the University will try to fund the top two needs during Phase I and during Phase II, funding will be for only the top ranked need, so please choose wisely.

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

Yes, you can as there are no restrictions related to distance education. As long as you meet the general criteria as specified in the policy, you can apply.

#### **What if my application gets denied for the Emergency Grant funding?**

Other relief grants will be provided to the extent possible in cases where students do not meet the general guidelines. Such relief includes the NJIT Highlander Relief [Fund](#).

### **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.

### **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](http://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".

If you have further questions, email the Office of Student Financial Aid Services at [finaid\\_ergrant-group@njit.edu](mailto:finaid_ergrant-group@njit.edu)