

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund CARES

University of Western States (UWS) will receive funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide emergency grants to students for COVID-related expenses, including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

The goal of the UWS financial aid office is to assist as many students as possible in meeting their emergency financial needs during this challenging time. If you have any questions, please contact the financial aid office at finaid@uws.edu.

Below are the answers to frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund.

What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocates funds to support individuals and businesses/organizations affected by the pandemic and economic downturn. The Act includes several sources of funds for colleges and universities, including the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

What is the COVID-19 Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?

UWS will receive funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide emergency grants to students to assist with the disruption of regular coursework due to COVID-19. Expenses, including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

Who is eligible to receive assistance? If I am eligible, how do I apply?

The [U.S. Department of Education announced on Tuesday, April 21](#) that it is limiting this funding to students who are Title IV eligible and were enrolled in on campus coursework. Under these guidelines, international students and students enrolled exclusively in an online program are not eligible to receive funding.

Title IV funding is confirmed by completing a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). Students who are potentially eligible have been notified via their UWS student account to complete a FAFSA to confirm eligibility.

Is there a deadline for applying?

Students must complete a 2019-20 FAFSA by May 15, 2020 to be considered for HEERF funding.

How much HEERF funding am I eligible to receive?

Grant amounts are anticipated to be no more than \$200 and may vary on funding allotment and eligible students.

What must I do to receive HEERF funding?

Students eligible for HEERF funding will be notified via UWS student email account and must sign an attestation form that funds will be used for COVID-19 approved expenses.

If I receive funding, will it negatively affect my financial aid package?

Funding from the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund will not impact a student's financial aid package since CARES Act funding is not categorized as financial aid. Funding will be sent directly to student.

If I did not accept my loans on my Financial Aid Package that were offered to me can I still apply for assistance through CARES?

Yes, students who have not borrowed their full loan eligibility can still apply for funding. We encourage students to be aware of all funding opportunities available to them, including loans.

How long will it take for a decision to be made if I qualify for assistance?

.Please continue to monitor your UWS email for updates and notifications.

If selected, how long will it take to receive my funds?

If funding is approved, the grant funds will be disbursed to your student account. If you have not already signed up for [Direct Deposit](#) please do so immediately. Disbursements from this fund will not be applied to an outstanding balance on your student account. Disbursements from this fund will not be applied to an outstanding balance on your student account.

Will I be required to repay any of the funding that I am awarded via the CARES funding?

At this time, funding awarded due to you for the hardships experienced due to COVID-19 are not required to be repaid. These funds are provided to you to assist you during this challenging time.

Is the funding taxable?

No, according to recent guidance from the [Treasury Department](#), funding received from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Act is not taxable.

I am still having financial difficulties. Is more funding available?

Possibly. Please make request to the UWS financial aid office (finaid@uws.edu) for further review.