



June 22, 2020

**NSU Federal CARES Act Student Emergency Aid Funds** | [View the Report - pdf](#)

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act was enacted March 27, 2020 and passed with the intention of protecting Americans from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

- [Quarterly Budget & Expenditure Reporting - pdf](#)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the CARES Act Student Emergency Aid Fund?

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act was enacted March 27, 2020. Totaling more than \$2 trillion, the economic relief package was passed with the intention of protecting Americans from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Included in that legislation was roughly \$12.5 billion in federal aid available to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

## **2. When will the CARES Act funding be available?**

In early April, the U.S. Department of Education released information to institutions of higher education regarding the amounts the schools could expect to receive as well as guidelines for distribution. Norfolk State University certified to the federal government its intended distribution plan later that month. We intend to commence distributing \$3.5 million in funds to students by May 29, 2020.

## **3. Who is eligible for the funds?**

Based on the guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, the below factors were used to determine eligibility for distribution of the emergency aid funds to students:

- Funds can only be awarded to students for “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare expenses.”
- Have a valid 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file at NSU.
- Students receiving the CARES Act emergency financial aid grant must meet the eligibility criteria in Section 484 of the Title IV Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). This includes, but is not limited to, the demonstration of the following:
  - Enrolled in a degree program at NSU.
  - High school graduate.
  - Enrolled NSU student making satisfactory academic progress.
  - Not owed a refund on Title IV grants.
  - Not in default on Title IV loan.
  - Certified as part of the original financial aid application process that includes statement of educational purpose and a valid Social Security Number.
  - U.S citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible noncitizen.
  - Returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to charges.
  - Not fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits.
  - Repaid Title IV loan amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits if obtained inadvertently.
  - Selective Service registration verified (the Title IV aid ineligibility for failure to register is actually in the Selective Service Act §3811(f)).
  - No federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, within certain time limitations.

## **4. How will NSU distribute the student emergency funding and how much will I receive?**

NSU will distribute a student emergency aid award of \$341 to Spring 2020 enrolled students as of March 13, 2020, who are in a degree program, enrolled in at least a 3-hour course, enrolled in at least one face-to face course, have a 2019-20 FAFSA on file with NSU, have a valid Social Security Number, and meet the section 484 criteria. A notification email will be sent out to all eligible students no later than Friday, May 22nd.

Students who do not receive an email are considered ineligible to receive the emergency financial aid grant distribution. For questions about CARES emergency financial aid eligibility, please email [financialaid@nsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@nsu.edu) or call 757-823-8381.

**5. How was the amount of the distribution determined?**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act awarded NSU \$3,450,858 to provide emergency financial aid grants to students. The University will distribute 40% Spring 2020 to students meeting the eligibility requirements. The remaining 60% will be distributed to returning students in the Fall 2020 semester from the Spring 2020 eligible list. This allocation method allows the University to address the student's need to support their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and childcare. The University is currently evaluating the plans for opening for the upcoming fall semester. The timing of the distribution for the fall will be determined once the University has finalized its plan for the Fall 2020 semester.

**6. I did not receive an email for the student emergency aid award, what should I do?**

If you did not receive an email by close of business on Friday, May 22, 2020, and you think you meet the eligibility requirements listed in question 3, please contact the Financial Aid Office at [financialaid@nsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@nsu.edu) or call 757-823-8381.

**7. What is the timeframe to receive the student emergency aid award and how will I receive the distribution?**

Each student determined to be eligible will receive a distribution award of \$341 through direct deposit no later than, Friday, May 29, 2020. Distribution will be processed through direct deposit if you have banking information in your student account. If you have not set up direct deposit through your student account (MyNSU), please do so as soon as possible to avoid any delay in receiving your distribution. If you have direct deposit set up, please confirm that the bank account is still active and where you want your refund to be deposited. Log in to your student account through MYNSU to verify your banking information. If you prefer not to provide your banking information through MYNSU, a paper check will be processed and mailed to your address of record no later than May 29, 2020.

**8. I do not want to provide my direct deposit bank information. How will I receive the student emergency aid distribution?**

If you prefer not to provide your banking information through MYNSU, a paper check will be

processed and mailed to your address of record no later than May 29, 2020.

**9. Will the CARES Act funds affect other aid that I have already received?**

No, CARES Act funds will not reduce your financial aid package.

**10. I have an outstanding balance on my NSU student account; can NSU take these funds and apply it to my outstanding balance?**

No, the CARES Act requires NSU to provide the emergency aid grant directly to the students. This direct payment distribution to students is for your expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

**11. I graduated at the end of the Spring 2020 semester. Can I still receive the emergency aid funds for expenses incurred during that time?**

Yes, students who had a qualifying expense during the spring semester are eligible to receive the funds.

**12. I am enrolled in an online program; do I qualify for CARES Act student emergency aid funds?**

You are not eligible for the CARES Act funds if you were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020; however, if you had at least one in-person class you are eligible.

**13. Is the money I received from the CARES Act taxable?**

No, according to the IRS website (see link below), "Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income."

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-and-emergency-financial-aid-grants-under-the-cares-act>