

2020

## CARES Act Student Emergency Aid Funding FAQs

UNF One-Stop Student Services

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# CARES Act Student Emergency Aid Funding FAQs

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed on March 27, 2020 to address unmet financial and health needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Among its provisions is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund which directs institutions of higher education to use no less than 50 percent of funds received under Sections 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid awards to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare expenses.

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## CARES ACT FAQs - STUDENT

### ■ Am I eligible for CARES Act funds?

- Eligible students for CARES Act funding are Title IV eligible. Title IV requirements include all but are not limited to:
  - Enrolled in a degree, certificate or other recognized educational credential, that is, a regular student under [34 CFR 600.2](#)
  - Eligible to file a FAFSA
  - US Citizen or eligible noncitizen
  - Valid Social Security Number
  - Registered with Selective Service
  - High School Diploma or its recognized equivalent
  - Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
  - Not in default or overpayment on Title IV program
- Eligible students must have been enrolled at the time of the emergency declaration (March 13, 2020/Spring 2020)
- Students enrolled exclusively in online courses at the time of the emergency declaration (March 13, 2020) are **not** eligible for CARES Act funding



## ■ **I am an international student and not a citizen of the United States. Am I eligible for CARES Act funding?**

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Unfortunately, the U. S. Department of Education requires students to be eligible to receive federal Title IV financial aid in order to receive this funding. Therefore, most international students will not be eligible to receive CARES Act awards.

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## ■ **Do I need to apply for CARES Act funds?**

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You do not need to apply for CARES Act funds. UNF has identified all potentially eligible students and will be contacting them via email with information regarding the awarding of funds.

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## ■ **What are the types of expenses covered by CARES Act funding?**

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Eligible expenses for CARES Act funding include, but are not necessarily limited to, medical, food, housing, technology expenses, relocation costs to return home, unexpected childcare, course materials, and other unexpected expenses included in the student's cost of attendance.

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## ■ **How much funding will I receive?**

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Award amounts vary by student and are unique to each student's circumstances. Awards are also contingent upon funds availability.

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## ■ **Can I use CARES Act funds to pay for my tuition and fees?**

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Because the CARES Act is designed to address immediate needs (i.e. food insecurity, housing, technology, etc.) any funds you may receive will not be applied to your UNF bill. If after receiving these funds in your personal bank account, you wish to use them toward your UNF bill, you may make a payment towards your UNF bill

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## ■ **How long before I know if I'm awarded?**

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Our goal is to provide funding as soon as possible. To help expedite the process, check your UNF email and myWings account regularly for award information.

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## ■ What documentation am I required to submit for the CARES Act funding?

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To make the process easy and seamless, potentially eligible students will be sent an award certification via email. If eligible, the signed award certification is the only document you will need to submit!

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## ■ If I'm awarded, how will I receive the funding?

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Direct Deposit (eRefund) is the fastest way to receive your funding. If you receive financial aid, you may have already enrolled to receive eRefunds.

If you need to enroll in eRefunds:

1. Go to [mywings.unf.edu](https://mywings.unf.edu)
2. Sign in using your UNF ID & Password
3. Click My UNF Bill tile
4. Click Enroll in eRefund
5. Select "Yes, I want refunds deposited directly into my bank account."
6. Enter the routing and account number for your personal bank account

If you are not able to set up a direct deposit account, you will be mailed a paper check to the local mailing address on record with the University. Be advised that this method may delay the receipt of your award.

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## CARES ACT FAQs - COMMUNITY, FACULTY, STAFF

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### ■ I know of a UNF student who was not awarded, but needs financial help. Where do I refer them?


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You can encourage students who have financial need, but did not receive CARES Act funding, to apply for additional assistance through the [Student Emergency Relief Fund](#).

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### ■ Half of the CARES Act funding is going to UNF students as required by the federal government. How is the university using the other 50 percent of the funds distributed?

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Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks. Institutions will be able to use 

these funds to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.

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## ADDITIONAL CARES ACT INFORMATION

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### ■ Florida Board of Governors

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The Florida Board of Governors CARES Act website is <https://www.flbog.edu/covid-19-financial-assistance/>.

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### ■ U.S. Department of Education

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The U.S. Department of Education CARES Act website is <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.

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### ■ UNF CARES Act Reporting

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- [Student eligibility notification email sample](#)
  - [CARES Act 30 Day Report](#)(original posting date 05/11/20)
  - [CARES Act 45 Day Report](#)(original posting date 06/25/20)
  - [CARES Act 45 Day Report](#)(original posting date 08/10/20)
  - [CARES Act Quarterly Report](#)(original posting date 10/09/20)
  - [CARES Act Quarterly Report](#)(original posting date 12/17/20)
  - [UNF's HEERF-IHE Expenditure Cumulative Report-Revised](#)(original posting date 10/09/20; Revision posted 01/06/21)
  - [UNF's CARES HEERF-IHE Expenditure Quarterly Report](#)(original posting date 10/09/20)
  - [UNF's HEERF-IHE Expenditure Quarterly Report](#)(original posting date 01/06/21)
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### ■ CARES Act Unemployment Benefits

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The CARES Act ensured that many students who have lost jobs and income due to COVID-19 will be eligible for the same enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits as other workers. The Department of Labor (DOL) issued guidance in late April confirming that a full-time student who was working part-time is eligible for assistance.



Students will qualify for benefits if they are unemployed, partially unemployed, unable or unavailable to work because the individual:

- Has been diagnosed or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (or household members are);
- Is providing care for a family or household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or for a child whose school or child care center closed due to COVID-19;
- Is unable to get to work or commence employment due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions, a business shutdown due to emergency declarations, self-quarantine, a job offer reversal, or is an independent contractor forced to suspend operations;
- Has become the head of household due to a COVID-19 death; or
- Is unable to work due to health ramifications of previous COVID-19 experience.

Under the CARES Act provisions and DOL guidance, the following groups of students should now be eligible for UI benefits in all states if they are unemployed due to one of the criteria listed above:

- Students who were enrolled full-time and working part-time.
- Students who were enrolled part-time and working, but who did not earn enough to qualify for regular UI.
- Students graduating in spring 2020 who lost a job during the semester due to COVID-19 (regardless of whether they had secured a post-graduation employment offer).
- Students who work for gig economy platforms, like Uber or Lyft, or were self-employed (as tutors, etc.) but lost that income stream because of COVID-19.
- Recent graduates who have a post-graduation or summer offer of employment that falls through due to COVID-19, even if they were not working while enrolled in school.

In order to access the UI benefits provided under the CARES Act, students should file a claim with the unemployment insurance program in the state where they worked. Information on where to apply can be found at <https://www.careeronestop.org/>, a website sponsored by DOL.

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## Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)

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- **What is the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)?** 

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II provides additional Covid-19 emergency funding to universities to assist students in need during the coronavirus pandemic.

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## ■ HEERF II Covid Relief Grant

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UNF has created the HEERF II Covid Relief Grant to distribute emergency grants to eligible students to help cover expenses related to the cost of attendance including tuition, food, housing, health care, child care or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus.

Per guidance from the federal government, these grants will be distributed to our students with exceptional need. **You do not need to apply for the HEERF II Covid Relief Grant.** UNF has identified all potentially eligible students and a separate email notification will be sent to each student who is receiving funding.

Eligible students will meet the following requirements:

- Currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student for spring 2021
- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Remaining unmet need

Students **not** eligible for CRRSAA HEERF II funding and in need of financial help can apply for additional assistance through the [Student Emergency Relief Fund](#)

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### **One-Stop Student Services**

(904) 620-5555

(904) 620-2414 FAX

onestop@unf.edu

We are available to assist via telephone, email and in person Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for University holidays.



## FAQs

- Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Records & Registration
- Residency
- Scholarships
- Veterans Affairs

