

Temple CARES Emergency Grant Student FAQs

Did You Incur Unexpected Expenses due to the Coronavirus Health Emergency?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. Part of the funding package was marked for colleges and universities to provide direct cash assistance to students who were impacted by the reduced on-campus services resulting from the COVID-19 health emergency. In accordance with the statutory requirement, the funds may only be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance resulting from lost wages because you are not able to work on campus such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

While we understand that each and every one of our students has experienced an upheaval of your day-to-day life as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to ensure that students with the most urgent need are the first to receive these emergency funds. For this reason, students who received Federal Pell Grants for the spring 2020 semester will be automatically awarded CARES Act grants. Pell Grant recipients will receive CARES Act grants of \$800. Please note that, based on federal guidelines, this does not apply to Pell Grant recipients who were enrolled in online-only programs prior to the suspension of in-person teaching.

Request Guidelines for Title IV eligible students (non-Pell recipient):

In accordance with the Secretary of Education, the following criteria must be met:

- Students must be eligible to participate in Title IV (federal) financial aid programs. International, undocumented or students with temporary immigration statuses do not qualify.
- Students must have been enrolled in on-campus courses during the spring 2020 semester as of March 13, 2020 (date of federal emergency declaration). Students enrolled in online programs or all courses this semester online, do not qualify.

How do students request funding?

Title IV eligible students that have not received a Pell grant and are enrolled in on-campus classes for spring 2020 will receive an online survey to complete within the COVID-19 tab of TUportal to request funding based on the unexpected expenses they incurred as a result of the coronavirus.

If you have not filed a FAFSA and feel you are eligible for Title IV funding, you still have time to complete the application <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Once you complete the FAFSA, continue to review your financial aid requirements in the Costs and Aid tab of your TUportal because you might have student eligibility requirements to complete before you can request Temple CARES Emergency funding.

The deadline to complete the TUportal survey is May 15, 2020.

Who is eligible?

Current degree-seeking students enrolled in on-campus classes during the spring 2020 semester (as of March 13, 2020) who are **eligible to receive federal financial aid** are eligible to request the Temple CARES Emergency funding. Students

who meet these criteria must also demonstrate that they incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations.

In accordance with the guidance issued from the U.S. Department of Education, international and undocumented students are not eligible to receive emergency grants.

What expenses will be considered?

Expenses you incurred as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 health emergency such as housing, food, technology, childcare, medical/healthcare, transportation expenses. Here are some examples:

- You lived on campus or used a meal plan and now you are experiencing housing or food insecurity
- You routinely used the computer labs to do your schoolwork, but now need a computer to continue your education remotely
- You needed to purchase a hotspot or internet access for your home
- You received health services through our wellness center and now need to seek treatment elsewhere that is not covered by your insurance
- The childcare center your dependent attended closed and you've had to hire alternative care so that you can continue your coursework
- You incurred transportation expenses returning home or storing your personal belongings because you could not return to campus to retrieve them
- You incurred nonrefundable expenses related to study abroad travel that was either cancelled or shortened unexpectedly
- You incurred unexpected expenses as a result of losing employment.

How much funding can I receive?

Awards will be determined on a case-by-case basis and relative to available funding at the time of the request. The minimum grant will be \$400. Students will be notified of the exact amount in their TUportal student account (TUpay).

Requests will be reviewed once the request deadline has passed. The deadline to request is May 15, 2020.

Once your request is reviewed and approved, you will see the grant disburse through your student account and processed as a refund. If you are already signed up for direct deposit, the funds will be deposited in your account within 3-4 days. If you are not registered for direct deposit through TUpay, you will receive a paper check in the mail to your permanent address on file with the university.

How will Temple determine which students will receive the funding and the amount of each grant?

Institutions must identify students who have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the novel coronavirus. Students who are currently enrolled in on-campus classes during the spring semester will be notified to complete the online request survey in TUportal.

The amount of each grant will be determined on a case-by-case basis of need and the extent the loss of services impacted the student's continued pursuit of their education. The minimum grant will be \$400.

Grant funding is available on a first-come basis and as funding is available. Our intention is to assist as many students as possible while being sensitive to need, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education's guidance.

Do I have to file the FAFSA to receive funding?

You are not required to complete the FAFSA, but having one on file with the university will allow us to process your request for funds faster.

If you do not have a FAFSA on file, we recommend you file the FAFSA now. We will review your financial aid file during the processing of the Temple Emergency CARES request and may request additional documentation so that we can help you to the best extent possible.

Without the FAFSA on file, we have no way of knowing if you meet the applicable eligibility standards to participate in federal financial aid programs. The criteria include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting. Additionally, the student must not be in default or in an overpayment and must be making satisfactory academic progress, or on an approved SAP appeal/plan.

Can I appeal the outcome of the request?

No, there are no appeals regarding the decision or the grant amount.

Will the funding be applied against an existing balance owed to the University?

The grant fund will disburse directly to your student account as a cash grant without regard to the balance owed. You will receive the grant funding as a refund. The University may not apply the grant to your balance owed, even with your permission and request to do so. You, however, may use the funds to pay your balance once you receive the refund.

Once the funds are disbursed, are there restrictions on how the funding is to be used?

The funds should be used to meet the unexpected expenses you experienced as a result of the disruption to campus caused by the coronavirus.

Is other financial support available to students at this time?

Temple is supporting students in need of financial aid relief in other ways. All students, regardless of CARES grant eligibility, are able to apply for emergency assistance.

[Broad Street Finish Line Grant, https://sfs.temple.edu/financial-aid-types/scholarships/continuing-students](https://sfs.temple.edu/financial-aid-types/scholarships/continuing-students)

[Emergency Student Aid funding,](#)

How do I donate to help students?

Visit giving.temple.edu