CARES Act Emergency Grant FAQs

What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund and sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.

What are eligible COVID-19 pandemic expenses?

Under the CARES Act, expenses incurred for rent/mortgage, groceries, course materials (unexpected schools supplies as a result of your classes transitioning online, technology for online classes, essential utilities (electric, gas, internet, water), healthcare and dental that your insurance did not cover, or childcare for essential workers are eligible. Tuition/fee balances are not eligible expenses under the CARES Act. If you have an outstanding balance, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at finaid@udc.edu for other options.

Who is eligible to receive a CARES Emergency Grant?

Students who meet basic eligibility criteria for federal financial aid and who have the greatest financial need can be considered for these funds.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Must be enrolled at UDC for the semester for which the student is requesting aid.
- Must be a degree-seeking student——undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral.
- Must be eligible to receive Title IV aid; see Title IV Eligibility Criteria (Basic Eligibility Criteria for Federal Student Aid).
- Enrollment was impacted by COVID-19, with related expenses incurred for rent/mortgage, groceries, course materials (unexpected school supplies as a result of your classes transitioning online, technology for online classes, essential utilities (electric, gas, internet, water), healthcare and dental that insurance did not cover, or childcare for essential workers are eligible.
- Must have submitted 2019-2020 FAFSA and received a disbursement.

Are any students excluded from receiving this funding?

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-matriculated students, or students enrolled in distance-only degree programs, not meeting satisfactory academic progress, in default on federal student loan, a male between the ages of 18 and 25 not registered with selective service or other unresolved eligibility conflicts. If you are a student from one or more of these groups, there may be other types of emergency aid available through the University Foundation https://www.udc.edu/foundation/. Additionally, external resources for undocumented and international students may be found here https://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships/search/

What is the application process?

Complete an electronic application by reviewing your email from caresactfunding@udc.edu

How will funds be awarded?

Funds will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

You will be notified via your UDC email of approval or denial, and you should receive notification within 3 business days of submitting your application. The email will be sent from caresactfunding@udc.edu .

I have more than one COVID-19 related expense. Can I receive additional funding?

Funding is limited, and the University's goal is to provide assistance to as many students as possible. Therefore, only one eligible expense per student may be considered.

What is the deadline to apply?

The spring 2020 application period opened April 29, 2020 and closes on May 29, 2020, or until funds are exhausted. The application will reopen if funds remain for future semesters. Eligible students will receive an email notification to both their UDC and personal email address on file if the application reopens.

I owe a balance to the University; can my grant be applied to my outstanding balance?

Tuition/fee balances are not eligible expenses under the CARES Act. Therefore, if you are approved for this grant you will receive a refund.

How much funding can I receive?

Grant amounts vary by students and are based on each student's circumstances. The grant is a one-time award, meaning you may only apply once.

How and when will I receive my emergency grant?

If approved, your grant will be reflected on your MyUDC portal within 3 business days. Your grant will be direct-deposited to your account on file in your MyUDC portal. If you do not have direct deposit set up, please do so ASAP. You may review the step-by-step instructions on the Office of Financial Aid's website. If no direct deposit information is on file, your grant will be mailed to the address reflected on your MyUDC portal.

Are there any tax implications if I receive this funding.

For more information, please visit the IRS page**, https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-and-emergency-financial-aid-grants-under-the-cares-act** . If you have additional questions, please contact your tax preparer or the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Please email the Office of Financial Aid at caresactfunding@udc.edu. We thank you in advance for your patience, as it may take one to two business days for a response.