

SUBJECT: Emergency Grants to Students Resulting from the CARES Act

Dear Susquehanna Student,

You are eligible to receive a one-time, student aid grant from Susquehanna University through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Susquehanna will begin distributing the student aid portion of the HEERF in its entirety (\$1,095,606 in aggregate) to all 1,950 eligible students this week. These grant funds will be direct payments to you for financial hardship expenses (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care) related to the disruption of on-campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds do not impact your current financial aid awards or any financial aid awarded to you in the future.

You are not required to take any action to receive these grants. If you have opted to receive refunds via direct deposit, you will receive this grant electronically. Otherwise, you will receive a check mailed to your address on file with the University.

The University is grateful to our partners at the U.S. Department of Education for making these grants available to you. HEERF, which was authorized by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, was signed by the President into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act created two separate formula-based grants for colleges and universities: one portion for the direct aid to students and the other focused on supporting institutional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional details on both programs can be found in Section 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the [CARES Act](#).

Student eligibility for the CARES Act HEERF-student aid funding was determined by Susquehanna University based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's CARES HEERF Certification and Agreement, HEERF Student FAQs, Sections 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the CARES Act, and Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. The criteria to participate in programs to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 484 of the HEA 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.

Your grant amount also was determined by Susquehanna University. The maximum grant amount is based on the average dollar amount of expenses (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare) associated with the disruption of on-campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need analysis profile provided by your eligible 2019-20 Free

Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) received by Susquehanna no later than May 7, 2020 (the end of spring semester classes).

In addition to the financial support provided through the CARES Act, Susquehanna took several steps to help students during the pandemic. In late March, the University refunded \$6.5 million to our students for unused, prorated spring housing and meal plan payments. This spring, the University allowed student employees who could perform their jobs remotely to continue working to provide them continued financial support and professional experiences. Susquehanna also loaned laptops and created Wi-Fi hotspots to support students unable to access technology for remote learning. The University also covered shipping expenses to mail essential items to students.

Susquehanna is committed to assisting you now and in the future. The University is creating an additional fund, supported by private donations, to support a broader range of students with demonstrated financial need, including international students and others who are ineligible to receive CARES Act funds. More information about that fund will be forthcoming in the next few months.

If you need assistance with any financial aid questions, please contact Student Financial Services by emailing SFS@susqu.edu.

Thank you!