

## **CARES Act Emergency Grants for Students FAQs**

### **Who is eligible for a Federal CARES Act Emergency Grant?**

Student eligibility for the CARES Act HEERF-student aid funding was determined by Susquehanna University and is 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 (for male students); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting. Your grant amount was determined by Susquehanna University based on the average expenses (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care) associated with the disruption of on-campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need analysis profile demonstrated by your eligible 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Additionally, you are not eligible for the CARES Act Emergency if you:

- Have not filed a valid FAFSA with Susquehanna by the end of the semester (May 7, 2020). The completed, eligible FAFSA demonstrates the student's Title IV eligibility and provides the necessary information to determine the grant distributions to students with the greatest demonstrated need.
- Have an ineligible FAFSA on file with Susquehanna (incomplete verification or other unfulfilled eligibility requirement denoted above) as of May 7; or
- Are an international student and ineligible to complete the FAFSA.

### **Do I have to apply for the CARES Act Emergency Grant?**

No. Students who meet basic eligibility criteria for federal financial aid and who have the greatest financial need according to the 2019-20 FAFSA will receive CARES Act-student aid grants. Eligible students received an email denoting their eligibility the week of May 11, 2020.

### **What kind of expenses can I use this grant for?**

Funds can be used for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, tuition, fees, or childcare.

### **How will I receive my CARES Act Emergency Grant?**

For students who have signed up for direct deposit on [mySU](#), funding will be sent to the student's financial institution via an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). For students who have not enrolled in direct deposit, checks will be mailed via USPS to their current address on file with the university.

### **How do I sign up for Direct Deposit?**

Visit [mySU](#) > Self-Service Menu > Student > Financial Information > Bank Information. Complete the information and hit “Submit” as soon as possible. Given the timing and urgency to disburse these funds to you, we may not be able to accommodate all electronic requests.

### **If I receive a grant and have an outstanding balance, will the funds be applied to those charges?**

No. These funds will be sent directly to you regardless of your account standing and will not appear on your student account.

### **Will the CARES Act Emergency Grant impact my financial aid award at Susquehanna?**

No. These funds do not impact your current award package now or any future financial aid awarded. Please note this is a one-time grant.

### **Is Susquehanna reserving any CARES Act emergency student grant funds for use at a later time?**

No. Susquehanna is disbursing all the funds associated with CARES Act emergency student grant funds now to address the pressing financial need of eligible students due to the disruption of on-campus operations from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

### **Do I have to repay a CARES Act Emergency Grant?**

No. These are grant funds and do not require repayment.

### **Do I need to report the CARES Act Emergency Grant on my federal tax return?**

No. These one-time grants are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. A CARES Act emergency grant should not be included in your gross income. Also, you cannot claim any deduction or credit for expenses paid with the grant. For more information, visit the [IRS website](#).