

CSU CARES PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE



WHAT IS CSU CARES?

The CSU Cares Program offers emergency grants for CSU students experiencing financial hardships directly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is made possible through the [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\)](#) authorized by the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as existing CSU campus-based resources.

Each CSU campus will distribute grants based on three shared CSU principles:

- Student Success
- Equity
- Timeliness and Administrative Simplicity

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All currently enrolled CSU undergraduate, graduate and professional students who are eligible to receive federal financial aid and were not enrolled in a completely online program as of March 13, 2020, may receive emergency grants funded by HEERF. All other currently enrolled students may receive emergency grants supported by other sources of institutional funding. Grants may be pro-rated for part-time students. Even if students have current financial holds or owe the campus fees or fines, they are still eligible for this program.

WHAT CAN THE GRANTS FUND?

The CSU Cares emergency grants are designed to support student expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These expenses might include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child-care expenses. Grants will be disbursed electronically to student banking accounts or via check. Alternative payment options also exist for students without a current banking account in the United States.

WHAT ARE THE GRANT AMOUNTS?

Grant amounts will vary by campus and by student, depending on campus resources and student circumstances. However, grant awards provided via HEERF dollars will not be restricted by cost of attendance ceilings and will also not be counted against a student's future financial aid award.

HOW WILL GRANT AMOUNTS BE DETERMINED?

Grants will be based on each student's documented financial need and in proportion to the financial difficulty faced as a result of COVID-19. Three primary categories include:

- Students with the lowest income status who received maximum state and/or federal aid;
- Students with some financial need prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Students without regard to prior state and/or federal aid received.

Students in the first two groups will receive an automatic minimum grant award – with students in the first group receiving larger amounts than those in the second. Some campuses may elect to also provide an automatic minimum grant award for students in the third group. For all three groups, students may apply for additional funds using a simple application process.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Campuses will automatically award grants based on prior financial aid information for many students. In addition, opportunities for all students to access grants will be available via a very brief application. For priority consideration during the spring term, grant applications should be received by May 15, 2020.

Each CSU campus will begin communicating to students about their respective approach and process. For more information, contact your [campus financial aid office](#), [Dream Center](#) or [international students office](#).