



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Reporting Requirement June 1, 2020

UA Fayetteville signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the funding certification and agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 22, 2020. UAF plans to use no less than 50% of the funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

- UAF will receive \$7,727,181 (50%) of the total Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) dollars allocated to the University specifically for emergency financial aid grants.
- As of May 31, 2020, \$7,234,750 has been distributed to students.
- Approximately 13,824 students were eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant.
- As of May 31, 2020, 13,787 students have received an emergency financial aid grant.
- All eligible undergraduate, graduate and professional students were awarded CARES Act funding. Award amounts ranged from \$300-\$725 based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) reported in a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2019-2020 or 2020-2021. Students with the greatest need, according to their EFC, received the largest awards.

Eligible students were defined as:

- Enrolled exclusively in an on-campus degree or certificate program during the Spring 2020 semester
- Having a valid 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 FAFSA on file
- A U.S. Citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- Earned a high school diploma, GED or completed high school in an approved homeschool setting
- Maintaining the minimum satisfactory academic progress standards
- Not in default or owing a refund on a Title IV grant or loan
- Having on file a statement of educational purpose, selective service registration if the student is a male, and a valid social security number
- Not convicted of a crime involving fraud in obtaining Federal financial aid

- Not convicted of a drug offense while receiving Federal financial aid

The following email was sent to student recipients once funding was awarded:

Dear Student,

We are pleased to tell you that you are eligible for an emergency aid grant under the federal CARES Act and we will be distributing those funds to you over the next two weeks.

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 coronavirus.

The University of Arkansas Office of Financial Aid determined your eligibility to receive a grant based on criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education and information provided in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you filed in either your 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 applications. Details on criteria for eligibility and distribution can be found in an [information sheet](#) on the university's COVID-19 response website.

The amount of emergency funds received is tiered based on the Expected Family Contribution reported in your FAFSA application with a maximum possible award of \$725.

The tiered distribution approach was established in alignment with U.S. Department of Education guidance encouraging institutions to take need into account and is broadly consistent with the process used to allocate CARES Act funds to institutions. The University's approach awards the highest amount to students who receive Pell grants based on need, and then scales amounts awarded to other students based on expected financial contribution as calculated under federal guidelines.

EFC TIERS	AWARDED AMOUNT
PELL RECIPIENTS	\$725
\$0-\$10,000	\$625
\$10,001-\$25,000	\$500
\$25,000-\$49,000	\$400
>\$49,000	\$300

Funds will be distributed through [BankMobile](#) based on the refunding preference you select. The choices are 1) direct deposit to an existing bank account or 2) direct deposit to a BankMobile VIBE Checking Account.

If you haven't set up your BankMobile account, please do so in order to receive your emergency funds. If you have signed up, be sure to check your [refund delivery preference](#) with BankMobile. You can [contact BankMobile](#) with any questions you have regarding their delivery preference. We also recommend that you update your mailing address in UAConnect.

By accepting the funds, you are confirming that you incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care or childcare costs. You may decline part or all of the funds, in which case they will go into the pool to be made available to other qualified students in need. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at treainfo@uark.edu to decline the funds.

To validate the legitimacy of this email, or for assistance, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 479-575-5651 or at [Treasurer's Office at the University of Arkansas](#).