

## **CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting Emergency Grant to Students**

In response to the impact of COVID-19 on students and families, the United States Congress passed the [CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Aid](#) that provides \$6.3 billion in direct support to institutions. UNC Pembroke was awarded \$6,274,710 for institution and student support, of which \$3,137,355 million has been designated for direct student emergency assistance. The remaining funding is designated as institutional support and will be used for expenses related to the rapid response to COVID-19.

CARES funding is being made available to cover a student's expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, including, but not limited to food insecurity, housing needs resulting from having to move off campus when residence halls closed, acquiring materials or technology-related expenses needed to complete coursework, health care, childcare, and transportation needs.

The Department of Education requires that students meet federal financial aid eligibility requirements to qualify for CARES Act Emergency Grant assistance. Students must have a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file.

Students enrolled in exclusively online programs or were fully enrolled in online courses at the time of the disruption are ineligible.

Students not eligible for support under the CARES Act Emergency Grant may apply for funding from the Student Emergency Assistance Fund <https://www.uncp.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/one-stop-shop/student-emergency-assistance-fund-application> administered by the Office of Student Affairs as long as funding remains available.

UNCP signed and returned the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to the U.S. Department of Education on April 13, 2020. UNCP intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004 (a) (1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

### **Eligible Students:**

UNCP uses the presence of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine students who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Students must meet these conditions for consideration for CARES Act Emergency Grants. The value of grants will vary based on students' individual situation, but our distribution plan is designed to help the most students with the greatest financial need. Students must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible for CARES ACT Emergency Grant:

- Enrolled for Fall 2020
- Eligible to receive federal financial aid, as determined by the FAFSA

Please note that not all students who meet these criteria will receive emergency grants; funds are limited and needs are great. Funds will be awarded first to those with the most financial need based on FAFSA. We estimate that 5716 students meet these requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Federal guidelines prohibit us for distributing funds to international students, undocumented students, students who didn't file a FAFSA or students enrolled in online degree programs.

**30 Day Report:**

As of August 31, 2020, UNCP distributed \$2,506,350 to provide CARES Act Emergency Grants to 3756 students.

**Application Method and Instruction to Students:**

Students received an email on May 7, 2020, notifying them of the availability of CARES Act Emergency Grant Funds. Information is available on the University's website. Groups of students were pre-qualified for CARES funding based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and eligibility for Pell Grant. Other students who were not pre-qualified can request assistance by submitting an application in BraveWeb and indicate the category of need, provide a brief explanation of their request and attest that their request is related to the campus disruption caused by COVID 19.