



## 2020 CARES ACT STUDENT ALLOCATION SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS FEDERAL EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR STUDENTS IMPACTED BY CORONAVIRUS

On April 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) the student allocation of the federal stimulus funding for higher education through the CARES Act. The announcement included details about the process (allocation, [PDF](#); letter [PDF](#); and process through [grants.gov](#), [PDF](#)). More information is available on the ED website at [ed.gov/coronavirus](#).

The UNL student allocation is **\$7,814,350** for emergency financial aid grants to students. This allocation includes the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA). **On April 21, 2020, ED announced additional guidance on how students' funds are to be distributed** ([PDF](#)) and which students may qualify. Below are recommendations based on this guidance.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO STUDENTS

In alignment with ED’s recommendations that institutions prioritize students based on their socioeconomic circumstances providing for emergency financial aid grants, we recommend distributing the funds in the following ways, recognizing that many students were impacted by the COVID-19 disruption to campus operations:

- Distribute direct awards to students based on their socioeconomic circumstances (including Pell-eligible students) who are already defined by the federal government as having exceptional need and who demonstrate they have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus by means of a simple online form.
- Earmark funds for eligible students to request emergency grants through a short online process. Requests for assistance will be for housing, food, technology, health care, or other expenses that resulted from the pandemic.

Priority Area	Plan	Description	Selection Methodology
<b>NCTA Students</b>	\$200,000	Support NCTA students	OSFA will work with NCTA Dean/IANR
<b>Direct grants to financially needy students</b>	\$6,278,400	Direct awards to financially needy students, including Pell-eligible students, who are defined by the federal government as having need and who demonstrate they have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute \$1,200 to students with EFC Bands 1 and 2 due to campus disruption as demonstrated by a simple online form</li> <li>• Approx. 5,200 students, including Pell recipients, including those just beyond Pell as well as approx. 900 GRAD/LAW</li> </ul>
<b>Grants for emergency expenses by application</b>	\$1,335,950	Immediate needs for expenses for materials, technology, housing, food, healthcare, childcare, and other educational expenses.	OSFA will develop a simple online form in MyRED for all students who meet ED’s requirements.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,814,350</b>		

### LIMITATIONS FOR STUDENT DISTRIBUTION AND MECHANISMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

In alignment with recent guidance, students must at least meet the minimum Title IV financial aid eligibility requirements (as determined by the FAFSA) and be enrolled in on-campus coursework (not online-only) as of March 13, 2020 (or enrolled Summer 2020) to qualify for a distribution.

The direct grants were calculated first as a single amount for a population of students based on the campus disruptions related to their expenses for internet access, transportation, access to affordable food, access to affordable healthcare, etc. Students who receive the direct distribution will also be informed of their eligibility to request additional emergency assistance should they need it. Students will be notified about their ability to request emergency grants through an online form available in their MyRED account. *Note: students not eligible for these federal funds will be automatically directed to a similar form requesting emergency funds that will be sourced from donor-based emergency accounts.*

UNL will distribute the funds as cash payments via direct deposit (not encumbered by their student account balance). Students will receive an email notification with each distribution that will provide instructions on how the funds may be used, such as toward course materials, technology, housing, food, healthcare, childcare, unpaid charges on their student account so that they may enroll in a future term, or other personal and miscellaneous expenses related to college attendance.

*The CARES Act Student Allocation advisory group includes representatives from the Executive Vice Chancellor’s Office as well as the Offices of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Affairs, and Business and Finance. A working group will determine the operational process details using available data for distribution with representatives from administrative areas across campus. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) will monitor the funding and deliver reports to ED on a regular basis.*