

# Frequently Asked Questions

---

## What is the CARES Act Emergency Assistance Fund? (May 10)

SWS received funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. These expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The Office of Financial Aid is working closely with Student Emergency Services to coordinate these emergency grants to students who qualify. The institution aims to assist as many students as possible in meeting their emergency financial needs during this challenging time.

## Who is eligible to receive assistance? (May 10)

Students who meet basic eligibility criteria for federal financial aid and who have the greatest financial need can be considered for these funds. The Office of Financial Aid will use Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data, along with your application, to determine your eligibility and will allocate funds based on available funding. If you are eligible to file a FAFSA but have not yet filed for 2019-20 and need assistance, please file a FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, these funds can be awarded to students pursuing programs and enrolled at SWS.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-matriculated students or students enrolled in distance-only degree programs. If you are a student from one of these groups, there may be other types of emergency aid from SWS available. Students who have applied for funds and are currently under committee review will receive communication about the status of their application no later than May 22, 2020.

## How do I know if I am eligible to apply? (May 10)

Students who meet all of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- (1) working towards a certificate at SWS;
- (2) enrolled in the current programs;
- (3) have a valid [FAFSA](#) for the current academic year on file with SWS's Office of Financial Aid.

## How do I apply? (May 10)

Students may submit an Emergency Aid Application to the institution. The application is housed in the Financial Aid office and could be sent by email.

Students who have applied for funds and are currently under committee review will receive communication about the status of their application no later than May 22, 2020.

Eligible students should complete the application for CARES Act emergency assistance (when available). The application identifies common costs that are eligible for emergency grant funding.

Newly admitted students facing a change in income that may affect their expected family contribution should contact SWS's Office of Financial Aid.

---

## **How many times should I apply? (May 10)**

Students can receive only one CARES Act award per enrolment, pending fund availability. Students who applied and are eligible, but did not receive a CARES Act award in a particular term, will be given priority in a subsequent term, pending fund availability. If you need further assistance, please contact SWS's Office of Financial Aid.

---

## **Is there a deadline for applying? (May 10)**

We are reviewing applications as quickly as possible so we can meet students' critical needs. Funds are limited, so we encourage students to apply as soon as possible.

---

## **When will I know if I will receive a grant? (May 10)**

Once your grant application is approved, you will be contacted by SWS's Office of Financial Aid or receive an email notification.

---

## **How much financial assistance can students request? (May 10)**

Students may be eligible for up to \$2,000 based on financial need. The institution will allocate funds based on students' stated needs, financial need, and available funding, with the largest amounts awarded to the students with the greatest financial need (not to exceed \$2,000). Awards will be disbursed as long as funds remain available. Students can receive one CARES Act award per enrolment. If funds are available, students who haven't already received a CARES Act award will be given priority.

---

## **When will I receive my funding? (May 10)**

We are currently reviewing completed applications and will fund eligible students as quickly as possible. Due to the high volume of applications we are receiving, we cannot reliably provide the exact timing for funding disbursement. You can help expedite funding disbursement by responding to all requests for clarification and documentation as quickly as possible. If you need additional resources, please contact SWS's Office of Financial Aid.

---

## **How will I receive my funds? (May 10)**

If funding is approved, Students will receive a paper check mailed to their permanent address on file or pick up from the SWS's Office of Financial Aid. Disbursements from this fund will not be applied to an outstanding balance on your student account. To update or confirm your permanent address, please call SWS's Office of Financial Aid.

---

## **How long will it take to receive a decision after I submit my application? (May 10)**

We are reviewing applications as quickly as possible so we can meet students' critical needs. Students will receive an email notification when their application is processed and if their financial aid summary was updated.

---

## If I receive funding, will it negatively impact my existing financial aid package? (May 10)

Funding from the CARES Act Emergency Assistance Fund will not impact a student's financial aid package since CARES Act funding is not categorized as financial aid.

---

## What kinds of expenses are allowable? (May 10)

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

---

## Do I have to repay emergency funding from the CARES Act? (May 10)

You do not have to repay the amount awarded to you. The CARES Act emergency fund is a grant.

---

## Do I need to report financial aid or grants on my federal tax return? (May 10)

Each financial award you receive from the federal government and other sources will have separate and unique tax consequences for your federal tax return. Funds received through the CARES Act emergency assistance from the SWS's Office of and Financial Aid will be treated as non-taxable. For more information, visit the IRS website.

---

## Why didn't I receive a CARES Act emergency fund award? (May 10)

Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, students who are not eligible for federal financial aid programs are not eligible for federal CARES grants.

**Please note:** Students who have applied for funds and are currently under committee review will receive communication about the status of their application no later than May 22, 2020.