

CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) is Federal legislation which provides a variety of financial support to individuals and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency grants. One part of this Federal program allocates money to many colleges, including Kean University, and a portion of that allocation is being awarded to college students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Who is eligible for a Federal CARES Act Emergency Grant?

These funds are available to eligible students who have experienced a disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Therefore, you must have been enrolled at Kean when the national emergency was declared or for any term during the pandemic. Note: students who are/were enrolled exclusively in Kean Online courses are not eligible for the grant.

Additionally, recipients must meet the [basic eligibility criteria for Federal Student Aid](#). If you have not already, you must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov>. You can file the FAFSA for either the 2019-2020 or the 2020-2021 award year.

Are International or Undocumented students eligible for the CARES Act Emergency Grant?

Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, CARES Act Grant recipients must meet the basic eligibility criteria for Federal Student Aid, as mentioned above. Since one of those requirements is being a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, international and undocumented (DACA) students are ineligible for assistance through the CARES Act.

How do I apply for the CARES funds?

Complete the Kean University CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant application on [KeanWise](#).

What eligible expenses qualify for CARES funding?

Eligible expenses apply to a variety of financial costs directly tied to student emergency expenses due to the disruption of their academic semester and campus operations from COVID19. The costs include funds spent for: child care expenses, food, housing, healthcare, and technology.

How will the CARES funds be disbursed to students?

Students who have signed up for direct deposit with the Office of Student Accounting on Keanwise will receive the funds via electronic transfer (EFT). Students who have not set up direct deposit will receive a check in the mail, which could take up to 14 business days to receive.

Would this funding reduce my financial aid?

No, these emergency funds are a one-time grant, not financial aid. They will not replace future or already-awarded financial aid.

Can I use the CARES funds to pay an existing balance on my tuition, fees, and/or housing?

Regulations prohibit disbursing CARES funds directly to student accounts, even if the student authorizes the school to do so, or using CARES funds to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance. To pay an existing balance, log into KeanWISE or contact the Office of Student Accounting at (908) 737-3240.

How much money is available for each applicant?

Award amounts vary by student and each student's unique circumstances. The University is committed to distributing the CARES Act funds it has received to as many eligible students in need as quickly as possible until those funds are exhausted. The maximum amount a student can receive is \$2,000.

Is there a deadline for the application?

The deadline to apply for Spring 2020 expenses is June 30, 2020 or until funds are exhausted, whichever is first.

What office do I contact if I have questions?

Questions can be directed to the Office of Financial Aid via FINAID@kean.edu

What resources are available if I am in need of additional assistance?

Students and families can visit njhelps.org to determine if they are eligible for food assistance through New Jersey's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), cash assistance through the WorkFirst NJ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or General Assistance (GA) programs, and health insurance through NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid. The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) also has a variety of programs that can help with rent/heating costs, prevention of eviction and reduction of utility bills. Individuals can visit the DCAid webpage to go through a screening process to determine if they are eligible for the assistance programs.

The Kean University **Empowerment Scholarship** is another available resource for students in need of emergency funding. In order to apply, candidates are asked to email kuscholar@kean.edu, provide their name and Kean ID, with the subject line *Empowerment Scholarship*. They will then receive the link to a brief online application. Notifications are made via email, and recipients could receive an award of up to \$500, which is applied to their KeanWise account within 5-7 business days.