

ARP Emergency Grants Frequently Asked Questions

What is ARP?

ARP is an acronym for the American Recovery Plan Act that was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The legislation authorized \$39.6 billion in funding for higher education institutions to sustain educational programs and support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Institutional allocations are based on a formula that accounts for the proportion of Federal Pell Grant recipients at the institution and the proportion of students enrolled in distance learning prior to the pandemic.

How must higher education institutions use the ARP funds?

Similar to the funding received under the CARES Act and CRRSAA, a portion of the grant must be disbursed as emergency grants to students (the student portion) and a portion is available for institutional needs relating to the coronavirus, including financial aid outreach and evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress the coronavirus (the institutional portion). Each institution receiving funds is required to develop its own method of disbursing emergency grants to students within the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education requires that universities prioritize students with exceptional need.

What is the purpose of the emergency student grants?

The purpose of the emergency grants is to support students whose lives and education have been disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency grants can be used for the cost of attendance, such as tuition, or for emergency costs related to the pandemic, such as food, housing, health care, mental health care, or childcare.

Who is eligible for the emergency grants?

The U.S. Department of Education has indicated that eligible students include any student who is or was enrolled at an eligible institution on or after March 13, 2020. Title IV eligibility is not required.

What is NWU's plan for allocating emergency grants to students?

Nebraska Wesleyan is using ARP funds for emergency grants to students enrolled in the 2021-2022 academic year who show evidence of financial need, as indicated by the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or NWU's financial aid application. NWU will prioritize students who have the greatest need. Awards will be calculated and paid out on a semester basis based on the number of students enrolled each semester.

Is this the same process for the CARES Act emergency grants?

No. The ARP legislation and the CARES Act have some similarities and some important differences. Nebraska Wesleyan's process for the ARP emergency grants is similar to the process used for the CRRSAA emergency grants.

Do I need to apply for funding?

No. Students do not need to complete an application to receive an emergency grant. However, students need to demonstrate financial need by completing either the FAFSA or NWU's

financial aid application. NWU will distribute 100% of the ARP student portion using a direct allocation plan.

Do I have to fill out a FAFSA to receive an emergency grant?

NWU is using the FAFSA and the NWU financial aid application to determine financial need. Students who believe they are eligible to receive a grant but did not submit a FAFSA or the NWU financial aid application should contact the Financial Aid Office immediately.

How do I know if I will receive an emergency grant?

You will receive an email from the Business Office if you are eligible to receive an emergency grant.

How do I know how much I will receive in my emergency grant?

The email will indicate the amount of your grant.

How will I receive my emergency grant?

You have the option to apply the emergency grant to the balance of your student account. If you are interested in this option, you must consent to have the funds applied to your student account. Please see the notification email for information.

If you do not consent to having the funds applied to your student account, the full amount of your emergency grant will be paid to you via direct deposit into your bank account or a check will be mailed to the address listed in your student account.

Direct deposit is the preferred and fastest way to receive the funds. If you are not setup for direct deposit, you may initiate the process here: [WebAdvisor Log In](#). Click on the “Log In” tab near the top right section of the page. Enter your log in information and select “Students.” On the next page under the “Financial Information section,” there is a link called “Bank Information (U.S).” Click on this link and enter your bank routing and account number. Select your account type and how to receive payment advices. Check the box “I Agree” and click “Submit.”

When will I receive my emergency grant?

NWU expects to disburse Spring 2022 emergency grants on or before February 28, 2022.

What if I have a balance due on my NWU account?

This has no bearing on the amount of your emergency grant. No fees or other balances on your student account will be deducted from the grant without your consent. Please see the notification email for information.

Do I have to repay the HEERF emergency grant?

No. The HEERF emergency grant is not considered financial aid or a loan. You will not need to repay the funds.

Is the emergency grant taxable?

Grants received under ARP are not included in your gross income and thus are not taxable income to you. IRS has provided the following guidance regarding emergency grants under the

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund: [IRS HEERF FAQ](#). Nebraska Wesleyan does not provide tax advice. This response is for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on, for tax advice.

What if I need additional financial support?

Please contact the Financial Aid Office at financialaid@nebrwesleyan.edu if you have questions about financial assistance.

What do I do if I have other questions?

Please contact HEERFGrants@nebrwesleyan.edu.