

CRRSAA Emergency Grants Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is CRRSAA?

CRRSAA is an acronym for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act that was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The legislation authorized \$21.2 billion in funding for higher education institutions to sustain educational programs and support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

2. How must higher education institutions use the CRRSAA funds?

Similar to the funding received under the CARES Act, a portion of the grant must be disbursed as emergency grants to students and a portion is available for institutional needs relating to the coronavirus. 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 when distributing emergency grants.

3. What is the purpose of the emergency student grants?

The purpose of the CRRSAA funds 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.

4. Who is eligible for the emergency student grants?

The U.S. Department of Education has indicated that eligible students include Title IV eligible students as well as non-degree seeking, non-credit, dual enrollment, and continuing education students.

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

Nebraska Wesleyan is awarding CRRSAA emergency grants to students enrolled in the Spring 2021 semester who qualified for need-based aid, as indicated by the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). NWU will prioritize students who have the greatest need.

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

No. The CRRSAA legislation and the CARES Act have some similarities and some important differences. Nebraska Wesleyan revised the distribution process for the CRRSAA requirements.

7. Do I need to apply for funding?

No. Students do not need to apply for an emergency grant. NWU will distribute 100% of the CRRSAA student portion (\$691,376) using a direct allocation plan.

8. Did I have to fill out a FAFSA to receive an emergency grant?

Yes. NWU is using the FAFSA to determine financial need. Students who believe they are eligible to receive a grant but have not submitted a FAFSA should contact the Financial Aid Office immediately.

9. How do I know if I will receive a CRRSAA emergency grant?

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

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

The notification email will indicate the amount of your grant.

11. How will I receive my emergency grant?

You have the option to apply the CRRSAA emergency grant to the unpaid balance of your student account. If you are interested in this option, you must submit the consent form. 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 CRRSAA 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.”

12. When will I receive my emergency grant?

NWU expects to disburse CRRSAA emergency grants on or before March 31, 2021.

13. 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. If you would like to apply the CRRSAA emergency grant to the unpaid balance of your student account, you must submit the consent form. Please see the notification email for information.

14. Do I have to repay the emergency grant?

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

15. Is the emergency grant taxable?

Grants received under CRRSAA 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.

16. What if I need additional financial support?

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

17. What do I do if I have additional questions?

Please contact HEERFGrants@nebrwesleyan.edu.