



CARES ACT GRANT [FAQS]

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and sent funds to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.

WHEN WILL CARES FUNDS BE AVAILABLE?

WSC applied for funding from the Federal CARES Act and once WSC receive that funding from the U.S. Department of Education, WSC will be able to rapidly start distributing grants to students based on their financial need. Refunds will begin June 15th.

Recipients of the Federal CARES Grant will receive a message from wsc.financialaid@willistonstate.edu to their WSC email detailing their award and next steps. Recipients will also be able to view their award in Campus Connection.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A FEDERAL CARES GRANT?

WSC will use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to determine students' eligibility.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-degree seeking, or students enrolled in online-only degree programs.

WHAT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

Unfortunately, under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, international students are not eligible for the Federal CARES funds.

WHY DIDN'T I RECEIVE A WSC FEDERAL CARES GRANT?

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 as well as students who were enrolled in online-only programs.

WSC has awarded this grant, in accordance with Federal guidance. While WSC would have liked to have had funding for *all* students impacted by COVID-19, WSC considered degree-seeking, low to middle-income students (per FAFSA) who experienced operational disruption due to campus moving to remote instruction.

CAN I APPLY FOR A FEDERAL CARES GRANT?

No. In an effort to apply the available CARES Grant funds to the most students possible, as quickly as possible, WSC did not require an application from students.

DO I HAVE TO REPAY THE FEDERAL CARES GRANT?

No. A grant is a monetary gift and does not have to be repaid.

IF I QUALIFIED FOR THE CARES GRANT, HOW WILL THE FUNDS GET TO ME?

Although you can view your award in Campus Connection, the Federal CARES Grant will not be released to pay any outstanding charges you may have. This grant will be delivered directly to you through direct deposit or check, based on the refund delivery method you have selected in Campus Connection.

Checks will be mailed to the student's mailing address on file. Please make sure your mailing address is updated in Campus Connection.

If you have not selected an electronic refund preference, please do so *as soon as possible* to prevent any delays in your receipt of this payment.

1. Sign into [Campus Connection](#)
2. Select the Financial Account tile
3. Select Direct Deposit, then choose WSC
4. Follow the steps to set up your direct deposit bank option

WHAT EXPENSES WERE CONSIDERED WHEN AWARDING THE CARES GRANT AND WHAT SHOULD THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The CARES Act stipulates that the emergency funds cannot be used to replace a loss of income or to pay for student expenses that are not directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic.

These funds are meant to help students pay expenses for technology, health care, childcare, course materials, housing, food, transportation, or other expenses incurred this term.

WILL THERE BE CARES FUNDS FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR?

Right now, WSC is concentrating on spring term emergency aid and monitoring Federal and State economic conditions, as well as the prospects for additional Federal emergency funding for universities and students. Any updates for future semesters will be communicated via email and web.

If you have questions about the Federal CARES Act Grant, please email wsc.financialaid@willistonstate.edu.