



University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) - Final Reporting Requirements for Quarter Ending: March 31, 2021

CARES Act Background

On March 27th, 2020, Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which President Trump signed into law. This bipartisan economic stimulus legislation contained significant resources for states, hospitals, businesses, organizations, families, and individuals to address the economic impact of COVID-19. For more information about the CARES Act and the University of Nebraska, visit nebraska.edu/CARES.

Student Allocation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

The CARES Act included the Education Stabilization Fund, which provided support for K-12 and higher education. The school [allocations](#) were largely based on the number of students from lower-income families in attendance. The higher education portion of the Education Stabilization Fund is titled the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), of which the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) was initially allocated \$15,628,700. The first half of the funding authorized by the HEERF was designated exclusively for emergency grants to students and the second half of the funding was designated to help institutions. For students, that was \$7,614,350 to UNL students and \$200,000 to students at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) for emergency financial assistance grants.

On April 29, 2020, Nebraska reported how it would distribute the funds to students through [Nebraska Today](#). Further details about the process and administration of the student allocation are as follows: On April 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) the student allocation of the stimulus funding for higher education through the CARES Act. The announcement included details about the process, including the [allocation](#) and the application process via a [Certification of Agreement](#) through grants.gov. More information is available on the U.S. Department of Education website at ed.gov/coronavirus.

Nebraska signed and returned the Certification of Agreement on April 15, 2020 confirming that Nebraska intended to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. On April 24, 2020, Nebraska received the [award notification](#)

Student Identification and Notification

February 2021: \$50,609 CARES funding remained when CRRSA funding was received. 85 applicants selected from awarding criteria below were awarded first with the remaining CARES funding.

Awarding Criteria for students:

1. Title IV eligible (completed FAFSA, meeting SAP, eligible program, etc.)
2. Enrolled Spring 2021
3. Need greater than zero



Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid
P.O. Box 880411 | Lincoln, NE 68588-0411
Fax: 402.472.9826 | 402.472.2030
huskerhub@unl.edu
Walk-In & Appointment Info: huskerhub.unl.edu



Notification of Application Availability

- Students were sent an email notifying them of the availability of the application on MyRED (student portal) and a To Do List item was added.
- Sample Email

Dear Student,

Summary: You can login to MyRED and navigate to the Financial Aid tab to access the Federal COVID HEERF II Grant funds application to **request assistance with expenses you have incurred due to COVID-19.**

We recognize you may be facing financial challenges presented by COVID-19 and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will soon be distributing additional federal stimulus funds through the CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) Act. You are receiving this email because you may be eligible for funds. **Our Federal COVID HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) II Grant funds application has been made available to you in MyRED under the Financial Aid tab.** You can complete this form to request assistance with costs you have incurred related to tuition, housing, food, technology, childcare, healthcare, or other costs that resulted from the pandemic.

UNL received notice of this available funding as part of the CRRSA Act passed by Congress, which allocated additional federal funds to colleges and universities to aid in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is limited and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) will review requests as they are received to make decisions on distributions related to your expenses. If you are granted funds, you will receive an email to your Huskers email account. Please be sure you have set up [direct deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts in advance.

In alignment with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, UNL will prioritize students based on those with exceptional need.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.

Sincerely,

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Application Information

- Students will be asked if they had expenses due to COVID-19
 - If No, taken to end of form/Signature page
 - If Yes, presented with question about whether HEERF funds can be used to pay charges on their student account
- Students with an EFC below 6,001
 - Are taken to the last page/Signature page to submit the application
 - Students who answer 'Yes' to having expenses will receive a \$1,200 grant
- Students with an EFC above 6,000
 - Are asked additional questions about type of expenses and amount of expenses
 - Then are taken to the last page/Signature page to submit the application
 - Students will be awarded the requested amount, up to \$600

Award Notification



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- Students were awarded at least weekly based on completed applications and email notifications were sent.
- Sample Email

Dear Student,

You are receiving this email as notification of a Federal COVID HEERF Grant distribution.

Per your emergency funding request, we have added a spring 2021 grant to your account which may refund to you. If you have not already done so, make sure you [set up Direct Deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts as this is the fastest way to receive funds. You can login to MyRED to see your grant and make sure you look in the 2020-2021 aid year. If you provided consent on your application to utilize the funds toward your UNL student account, then the funds will credit your student account first and the remainder will be refunded to you, if applicable

We understand that the amount granted to you may not be what you requested or what you might need at this time. The amount provided is based on the limited amount of funds available and prioritized to support as many students as possible and prioritizing students with exceptional need who were impacted by COVID-19. You may use these funds to help support your tuition, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and other expenses related to attendance at the University of Nebraska. **Please be sure to check your student account in MyRED to make sure you are current on your balance due.**

We recognize that you may be managing a variety of difficulties given the current circumstances and we aim to support you as much as we can. Many students, like yourself, are finding this time to be challenging and struggling to pay for basic needs such as rent, food, and monthly bills. Our website will continue to be updated with resources that may be helpful to supporting your basic needs or other questions related to finances: <https://financialaid.unl.edu/covid-19-resources>.

The University is continuing to provide helpful updates on the COVID-19 at <https://covid19.unl.edu/>.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19 or other options for financial aid, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.
Sincerely,

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Student Numbers and Amounts for Specified Quarter - Final
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- Estimated number of eligible students: 10,064
- Number of students awarded grant: 85
- Amount of grants awarded: \$50,609
- Remaining balance: \$0.00



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