CORONAVIRUS UPDATE for Students: CARES Act Funds

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To: Tuskegee University Office of Marketing and Communications <marketing@tuskegee.edu>

Dear Students (cc: Employees):

Tuskegee University has received an allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to support the emergency needs of degree seeking students due the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruption of campus operations. These funds will be distributed to students upon completion of the Tuskegee Emergency Fund Application available online. The University will review applications and distribute funds to students. This process will continue over the next twelve months or until all funds are exhausted.

The CARES Act funds are separate from the emergency funds contributed by Tuskegee alumni, faculty and friends through the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Overview

Who is eligible?
All current degree-seeking students (graduate, undergraduate, VETMED) enrolled in Spring 2020 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who have successfully completed a 2019-20 FAFSA (or eligible to file a FAFSA) are eligible for CARES Act Funds.

How much funding is available?
Award amounts vary, depending on each student’s request and economic circumstances.

What types of expenses are covered by the CARES Act emergency funding?
CARES Act funding will assist with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, or health care).

How do I apply for CARES Act funding?
Students must complete the COVID-19 Emergency Fund Request Form. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Review the eligibility information below to make sure you’re eligible for funding.

FAQs

Do I need to complete a FAFSA to receive CARES Act funds?
Yes, students must have a successfully completed FAFSA on file. Students who have not filed a FAFSA, and are in need of financial assistance, should immediately file a 2019-20 FAFSA.

How do I know if I am eligible to file a FAFSA?
The eligibility criteria to file a FAFSA, as outlined in Section 484 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), include but are not limited to the following:

- U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen
- Valid Social Security number
• Registration with Selective Services, if male
• High school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting

**Can undocumented students and international students receive funds under the CARES Act?**
No, international and undocumented students are not eligible for CARES Act funding. However, emergency funds from other sources can be requested from the Office of Financial Aid.

**I am enrolled in an online program; do I qualify for CARES Act funds?**
You are not eligible for CARES Act funds if you were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020. However, if you were enrolled in a combination of online and in-person classes, you are eligible.

**Do I need to be meeting satisfactory academic standards (SAP) to receive funds?**
Yes, to be eligible for CARES Act funding, you must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards, which are established by the Office of Financial Aid following Federal guidelines.

**I have an outstanding tuition/housing balance for the current semester; would these funds be applied to that balance?**
No, the funds will be sent directly to you.

**How long before I receive funds?**
Requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**How will I receive funds if my request is approved?**
A check will be sent to the address on your Emergency Funds Application.

**Can these funds affect other aid that I have already received?**
No, CARES Act Funds will not reduce your financial aid award.

Sincerely,
Kimberly M. Scott, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

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