



CARES Act Funding

John F. Kennedy University (JFKU) has been awarded \$196,816 in CARES Act funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The CARES Act is federal legislation that provides a variety of financial support to individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19. JFKU signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends 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.

Distribution of funds:

JFKU's first allotment, \$98,408, is to be used to provide direct emergency assistance to students who were enrolled in on-campus classes before March 13, 2020 and eligible for Title IV funding. Distribution of the first allotment, will be in the form of a block grant to students who are: (1) currently active in courses, (2) in good academic standing with the university, (3) eligible for Title IV funding, and (4) have the greatest potential for financial distress need, based upon the expected family contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA application. Up to \$450 will be awarded to each eligible student. The awards will be posted to student accounts and then issued as a refund check. The funds will not be used to pay any current or future balances.

As of June 28th, the estimated total number of students at the University eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (based on receipt of a FAFSA) and thus eligible to receive Emergency Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 450. This does not include Title IV-eligible students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program as these students are not eligible for Emergency Grants. As of June 28th, 150 eligible students were awarded funds totaling \$67,500 using the above EFC criteria. The remaining balance of the first allotment will be awarded to students who requested additional assistance through an online application that requests the students to document their eligibility and expenses related to disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. As of June 28th, 116 applications had been received and were being reviewed for award. Under phase 2 of the first allotment of funding, 69 students were awarded \$34,500.

JFKU's goal is to assist as many students as possible, in accordance with federal guidelines, and as such, the second allotment of funds (up to \$98,408) will also be made available to JFKU students. These funds will be distributed based upon an online application (<https://forms.gle/48HsRbYdVKHPA6T89>) to be completed by students who have incurred additional expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Once the application is submitted, JFKU will award funds to eligible students in grant amounts up to \$500 until the funds are no longer available. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis.

FAQ

Q: What is the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), and how does it impact colleges and universities?

A: The CARES Act, signed into law March 27, 2020 includes several sources of funds for postsecondary educational institutions and provides approximately \$14 billion that will go directly to higher education institutions to support the costs of shifting classes online, and for grants to students for food, housing, technology, and other purposes.

Q: How much is John F. Kennedy University (JFKU) allotted to receive in grant funds?

A: The University should receive \$196,815 in cash grants for students.

Q: How is JFKU required to use the student grants?

A: Institutions are required to use the money directly on students to cover unforeseen expenses related to disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, including but not limited to food, housing, health care, childcare, technology and course-related materials.

Q: Which students are eligible to receive a HEERF grant?

A: Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in Title IV programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. Students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs on March 13 (the date of President Trump's national emergency proclamation) are not eligible for HEERF-student share funds, per the Department of Education (ED).

Q: What are the basic federal financial aid (Title IV) eligibility requirements?

A: Students must be enrolled in a bachelor, master, or doctoral program, be in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of 2.0 for Undergraduate students and 3.0 for Credential/Graduate students), not be in default on a Title IV loan, be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or eligible non-citizen, have a valid Social Security number, be registered with Selective Service (if male), have a high school diploma or equivalent and cannot be in default on a Title IV loan. Student's must also have completed a FAFSA for the most recent award year and all outstanding financial aid documents must be complete.

Q: I meet the eligibility requirements but I am taking classes online. Do I qualify?

A: Per ED's April 29th guidance, students enrolled in an exclusively online program are not eligible. An exclusively online program is an educational program that only offers online classes; that is, the educational program has no residential classes over the course of the entire program. A hybrid academic program that is constructed to allow students to complete both online and residential classes is not an exclusively online program.

Q: How will the funds be distributed?

A: Allocation methodologies have yet to be finalized; however, its likely funds will be distributed using methodology similar to that used for awarding Pell Grants. Using the Pell methodology, awards will be based on the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated from their 2019-2020 FAFSA.

Q: If I receive funding, can JFKU apply my grant monies to my account balance?

A: ED has made clear that the emergency cash grants to students *cannot* be applied toward outstanding balances, and must be disbursed directly to students, using means such as check, electronic funds transfer, payment app, or pre-loaded debit card.