



## WSU Tech COVID-19 Student Emergency CARES Act Funds FAQs

### **What is the CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided by the federal government?**

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 and sent money 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/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds be available?**

Federal funding for the CARES Act has been received from the U.S. Department of Education and we are now able to rapidly start distributing grants to students. Grants will be disbursed on a weekly basis following the opening of the application process the week of May 4, 2020. Recipients will be notified via email or text message.

### **Who is eligible for the CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?**

Eligibility is limited to individuals enrolled at WSU Tech for the spring or summer semesters in a certificate or degree-seeking program. To be approved for this grant opportunity, students are required to have a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on file and be compliant with all federal aid requirements. Federal aid requirements for student aid include, but are not limited to, meeting financial aid satisfactory academic progress, not have a loan in default or a grant overpayment, be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen with current documentation and registered for Selective Service. Online ONLY students (before March 13, 2020) are NOT eligible for this funding. If you are eligible to file a FAFSA but have not yet filed for 2019-20, please file a FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). If you need assistance, please contact us at [caresact@wsutech.edu](mailto:caresact@wsutech.edu).

Applicants must be enrolled in at least 1 credit hour at WSU Tech for spring and/or summer semester.

- If Courses began prior to March 13, students must have been enrolled in at least one face-to-face course starting before March 13.
- Students must be eligible to apply for financial aid through FAFSA. (This excludes international, DACA, and dual credit students.)
- Dual credit high school students are not eligible.
- Applicants must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- A valid Social Security number is required.
- Male students must be registered with Selective Service.
- Documentation of high school completion is required, such as a high school diploma, GED or have proof of completion of high school in an approved home school setting.

### **How did WSU Tech develop the eligibility criteria?**

The college followed [guidance from the U.S. Department of Education](#).



**How much can I apply for?**

Students are eligible for an initial payment of \$500. Applications are now open on the Financial Aid tab of the myWSUTech portal.

**Does the money need to be repaid?**

No, money received through this fund does not need to be repaid.

**Would this funding reduce my financial aid?**

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid.

**What are the deadlines to apply?**

Applications will be accepted throughout the semester. There is no deadline to apply, however, applications will be processed in the order received. The number of awards made varies according to the number of applications received and available funds. Completion of an application does not guarantee funding will be awarded.

**When will we know the results?**

Our goal is to award these grants as soon as possible. Applications will be processed in the order received.

**How do students receive the money?**

If you are approved for funding, funds will be distributed in the following manner. Students who have initiated direct deposit with WSU Tech will be paid via direct deposit. Checks will be mailed to the mailing address on file those who have not initiated direct deposit with WSU Tech. If you would like to update your mailing address or initiate direct deposit, please visit the Student tab in myWSUTech.

Payments for students enrolled in spring classes will begin to be processed on Thursday, May 7. After that, payments will be processed once a week. Payments for students enrolled in summer classes only will be processed after classes begin on June 1.

**What if I owe WSU Tech for tuition or other expenses?**

The full amount of the emergency grants will be given directly to the student, and will not pay outstanding balances owed to WSU Tech. Any outstanding balance owed to WSU Tech will remain the responsibility of the student.

If you are eligible for CARES Act funding and are applying for the student grant to assist with technology related expenses as a result of COVID-19, please contact 316-677-9906 to coordinate a time to return any College issued devices. CARES Act funds are for expenses incurred by each student related to campus closures. College issued devices are not considered an expense to students and would not comply with federal guidance as an eligible cost under CARES Act funds.





**Are the CARES Act Grants taxable?**

No. Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income.

**What additional resources are available if I need access to food or other help?**

You can use WSU Tech resources: <https://wsutech.edu/student-support/>

Or other Community Resources:

**United Methodist Open Door**

**United Way of the Plains Help Center:** please call 211

**Who can I contact for more information or assistance?**

If you need assistance, please contact us at [caresact@wsutech.edu](mailto:caresact@wsutech.edu).

