

# Coronavirus (COVID-19): Important Financial Aid Updates and FAQs

The Office of Financial Aid remains open and is available to assist you with your questions about your financial aid.

You can reach us by sending an email to [Sam.Keranovic@ustdts.edu](mailto:Sam.Keranovic@ustdts.edu) by calling us at 586-838-1268. You can check the status of your financial aid award and any outstanding requirements by contacting our Office of Financial Aid directly.

*These FAQs were last updated on 7/1/2021.*

## What is the USTDTS CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund?

The USTDTS CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund is intended to assist students with urgent financial needs directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Needs may include food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare. This is federal funding that has been made available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

USTDTS signed and returned to the US Department of Education, the Certification and Agreement with the assurance that we intend 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. USTDTS has received \$19,459 from the US Department of Education to be used to provide emergency grants to students.

Students who apply via our USTDTS CARES application are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis to determine eligibility. The application is used to document that the student has expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).

Students who receive an award are advised upon approval of their application that the CARES Act funding is to assist with their expenses related to the coronavirus.

Estimated number of students eligible to participate in Title IV programs: 50

	As of 04/01/2021	As of 06/30/2021
Total number of students who have received a CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant	18	19
Total amount of CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students	\$9000	\$9500

The Office of Financial Aid continues to award these funds and the application will be available until funding is exhausted.

## **How do I apply for USTDTS CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?**

The USTDTS CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding application for students enrolled in the 2020-2021 academic year classes is now open. Students affected by the pandemic disruption during the winter classes ending October 31, 2020 are eligible to apply.

2020-21 USTDTS CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Application can be found in the institution's lobby and the Office of Financial Aid.

Information and the application for the **2020-21 USTDTS Student Emergency Grant Application** can also be found in the institution's Financial Aid Office. Awarding for 2020-2021 academic year will begin the week of **October 26, 2020**.

If you haven't already done so, we recommend that you file the [2020-21 FAFSA](#).

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

Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, these funds can be awarded to students who are eligible for federal financial aid. This includes students enrolled at USTDTS in the Professional Tractor Trailer Training Program 602.

### **Eligibility requirements:**

- To be eligible to receive an award in the 2020-21 academic year, you must be a currently enrolled student at USTDTS Professional Tractor Trailer Training Program 602. **Note: Students who have graduated are not eligible for this award.**
- To be eligible to receive an award in the 2019-20 academic year, you must have been a currently enrolled student at USTDTS who was enrolled in the Professional Tractor Trailer Program 602 during the 2020 when the campus disruption occurred. **Note: The 2019-20 award period ended in August 2020.**
- Have a FAFSA on file and be eligible for federal financial aid.
- Be a US citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- Be enrolled in a program that is not exclusively an online program.
- Have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.
- Complete all application questions in full.

If you have graduated and are no longer enrolled, you are **not** eligible for CARES Act Funding.

If you are eligible to file a FAFSA and need assistance, we encourage you to file the 2020-21 FAFSA online at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

## **How much USTDTS CARES Act funding can I receive?**

The USTDTS CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund application is currently capped at \$500 to distribute the funds to as many students as possible. Students with extenuating circumstances may complete the USTDTS Student Emergency Grant application to be considered for additional funds for a total up to \$600. Additional funding requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure our neediest students have the opportunity to apply for funding.

Depending on the volume of requests and level of need, USTDTS may award a lesser amount than requested. We appreciate students only asking for the amount needed so we can serve as many students as possible.

## **How are decisions being made?**

Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis and preference will be given to students with documented need.

Students who did not receive an award in the 2019-20 school year will be given first priority for remaining funds available in the 2020-21 school year.

Every effort will be made to have a decision within one to two business days, however, depending on volume of applications, this timeframe may be extended. As our funding is limited, USTDTS cannot guarantee that all applications submitted will receive an award.

## **If I am approved, when will I receive USTDTS CARES Act funding?**

We will make every effort to have a decision within one to two days, however, depending on volume of applications, this timeframe may be extended. After award approval, you can expect funding within three days via paper checks. All checks can be picked up from the Bursar Office.

## **If I owe money to USTDTS, can USTDTS apply these funds to my balance?**

Charges or balances owed to USTDTS cannot be deducted from this funding, under any circumstances. Please check with the Bursar Office for up to date balance information. If you would like to use your USTDTS CARES Act funding to pay your balance, you may do so via any of the USTDTS accepted payment methods available in the Student Handbook or by contacting our Bursar Office.

## **How can I view/submit my financial aid requirements?**

You can submit your financial aid documents to the Financial Aid Office.

## **What if I have changes in my income due to COVID-19?**

We recognize that students and their families may have extenuating financial circumstances that the standard need analysis form (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA) does not consider. If you have had a change in your income due to COVID-19 and would like us to consider a making a change in your FAFSA EFC, please complete this form and submit it

along with an explanation and supporting documentation. If approved, a change in your EFC may make you eligible for need-based financial aid and student loans.

If you have had changes in your family income due to other circumstances, email the Office of Financial Aid at [Sam.Keranovic@ustdts.edu](mailto:Sam.Keranovic@ustdts.edu)

**If I withdraw for the semester due to a COVID-19 related circumstance, will this negatively affect my eligibility for federal or state aid, according to SAP guidelines?**

No, leniency will be provided to students who withdraw due to a COVID-19 related circumstance.

**Where can I get more information about COVID-19 and its impact on USTDTS?**

Latest updates can be found on our website by clicking on the link Covid-19.

**Where can I get information on new options for my federal student loan payments?**

<https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus>