

## Cocky CARES (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Program – CARES Act)

Jacksonville State University students are eligible to apply for emergency financial assistance grants through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), made possible through the Coronavirus Assistance, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These grants do not need to be paid back, but students must either complete an acknowledgement (phase I) or apply (phase II) to receive a grant.

In addition to the requirements outlined in the FAQ below, all grant recipients must be Title IV eligible, which requires them to have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file for the 2019-20 academic year.

Acknowledgments/Applications will be accepted and they will be processed in the order they are received. Emergency grants will continue to be awarded until funds are exhausted.

View [emails sent to students](#) about the application process.

For questions not covered in the FAQs, please contact the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund contact team at [cockycares@jsu.edu](mailto:cockycares@jsu.edu).

### *FAQs for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund*

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

The recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law, provides funding to colleges and universities through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). These funds allow institutions to provide emergency financial grants to students for specific expenses, related to cost of attendance,

that were a direct result of the disruption of campus operations due to the national COVID-19 pandemic.

We know that many of our students are struggling financially through this global health crisis. JSU is currently developing a plan to equitably distribute these funds, following Department of Education guidelines.

This emergency aid will become available for students that meet the HEERF eligibility guidelines and who were enrolled at JSU at the time of disruption. These funds are meant to assist students with their unexpected expenses and stay on track to earn their degree as planned.

### Who can apply for the funds?

To be eligible students must:

- have been an undergraduate or graduate student during Spring 2020 semester;
- must have been Title IV eligible during the Spring 2020 semester.;
- enrolled in a degree-seeking program;
- must not have been exclusively taking online courses (prior to the campus disruption date).

JSU will distribute the HEERF funding in a way that prioritizes students with the greatest demonstrated need and ensures that funds are distributed as widely as possible.

### What does it mean to be eligible for Title IV funds?

The Department of Education requires that students meet federal financial aid eligibility (Title IV) requirements to qualify for the Cockey CARES (HEERF) assistance.

Title IV eligibility includes:

- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent, such as a GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

- Must be working on an approved degree or certificate that is at least 24 credits in length.
- Must be a U.S. citizen, or permanent resident.
- Must have been enrolled in on-campus classes - students enrolled in all online coursework will not be eligible.
- Must not be in default of a federal student loan or owe a repayment of a federal grant.
- Must register with the Selective Service if a male, and at least 18 years old.
- Must be enrolled at least half-time.
- Must be in Satisfactory Academic standing (SAP). For more information on SAP guidelines please visit the [JSU Financial Aid website](#).

#### How will funds be allocated?

JSU will distribute the HEERF funding in a way that prioritizes students with the greatest demonstrated need and ensures that funds are distributed as widely as possible.

#### If I did not file a FAFSA, may I still do so?

No. These funds are only available to students who had a FAFSA on file prior to the end of Spring Semester 2020.

#### Who is not eligible to apply?

Per the U.S. Department of Education regulations, only students who are, or could be, eligible to participate in Title IV funding may receive funds through the HEERF program. If a student has completed the 19/20 FAFSA then the student has demonstrated basic eligibility.

These same regulations prohibit International students, undocumented students, those not enrolled at the time of the campus disruption (March 13,

2020), or students enrolled in distance-only degree programs from receiving funds through the HEERF program.

If you are a student from one of these groups, there may be other types of emergency aid you may apply for. Complete the [Student Emergency Fund Application](#).

## How will these funds be disbursed?

### **Phase I Cocky CARES Grants**

Phase I Cocky CARES grants do not require an application, but do require acknowledgement by the student. Several thousand eligible JSU students have already been selected to receive this grant funding, based on the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) reported on their 2019-2020 FAFSA. The amount of this award varies from student to student, depending on the EFC. Students eligible for these funds will receive an email notification from the university by the end of this week. If selected to receive the funds in Phase I, students must follow the directions in the email notification to complete an acknowledgment form before funds can be distributed. Once this form has been received, students can expect funds to be disbursed within 2-3 weeks. Students must accept these funds by August 1, 2020 or lose eligibility of the Phase 1 funds

### **Phase II Cocky CARES Grants**

Phase II Cocky CARES Grants require an application. Any eligible students (as listed above) experiencing financial hardships that were the direct result of the disruption of campus operations due to the national COVID-19 pandemic may apply for assistance based on financial need and documentation. Applications are available on MyJSU, under "Featured Links." Students can expect funds to be disbursed within 3-4 weeks, if the application is approved. Eligible students who received Phase I Cocky CARES grants may also apply for Phase II Cocky CARES grants, but must complete an application and provide documentation outlining the need for additional funds.

## How can I apply?

Students may complete the Cocky CARES application in their My JSU account.

**Phase I:**

- Students will receive an email to their my JSU email account.
- [Log in to your My JSU](#)
- Select "Student Acceptance of Emergency Grant Aid" from Featured Links

If a student did not receive an email or need additional funds, apply for Phase II.

**Phase II:**

- [Log in to your My JSU](#)
- Select "Cocky CARES Emergency Grant Application" from Featured Links
- Complete the application
- Applications will be accepted for Phase II until all funds are exhausted.

**How was the allocation to JSU determined?**

JSU was provided with an allocation relative to the proportion of Pell Grant applicants at higher education institutions, as well as the number of students enrolling for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Half of all of the HEERF funds allocated to institutions through the CARES Act must be provided as emergency grants to students for specific expenses that were a direct result of the disruption of campus operations due to the national COVID-19 pandemic. These expenses may include any component of the student's cost of attendance such as: housing, food, course materials, health care, child care, and technology-related expenses.

**Do the funds need to be repaid?**

No, this is not a loan. The funds are given to students in need, to use towards basic or academic needs.

### Can this funding reduce my financial aid?



No, these funds are exempt from the maximum financial aid amount students may receive.

### What should I do if I am not sure my expenses would be covered by the HEERF program?



We encourage all students with need, that meet the basic eligibility requirements as outlined, complete the HEERF application. There will be an opportunity in the application for students to provide information on how the COVID-19 pandemic and campus disruption has impacted their lives.

### I am graduating this term (Spring 2020). Am I still eligible to apply?



No, per US Department of Education guidelines published on June 17, 2020, a student must be Title IV eligible to receive CARES Act funding. This requires the student to be enrolled in a degree-seeking program at the time of disbursement. As a graduate, you are no longer in a degree-seeking program.

### What if I was online only Spring Semester 2020?



If you were online only Spring Semester 2020, unfortunately you do not qualify for Cocky CARES. This is due to restrictions placed on these funds by the US Department of Education. If you need financial assistance, please apply through the [Student Emergency Fund Application](#).

### Who can I contact for more information?



If you have questions about the HEERF program not covered here, please contact us at [cockycares@jsu.edu](mailto:cockycares@jsu.edu)

## Required Reporting & Disclosure Information

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