

# The CARES Act & Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

## The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

The CARES Act, which established and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), directs institutions to use this new federal funding to provide direct emergency financial grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

## Eligibility for CARES Funding Through HEERF

Students must be eligible for federal Title IV aid to receive these direct awards through HEERF. Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), establishes eligibility for the Title IV programs and therefore the direct awards through HEERF.

## UCSB CARES Grant

UCSB Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has established the UCSB CARES Grant to make these direct awards to the undergraduate student population eligible for these federal funds. \* Awards range from \$650 to \$1,700.

## Institutional Support for Dream Scholars - UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant

Our undocumented student population is not eligible for federal funding through HEERF. This population is eligible for state and institutional aid, and because we know these students are also affected, UCSB Financial Aid & Scholarships has committed funding to award the Dream Scholars using parallel eligibility criteria. Eligible Dream Scholars with a California Dream Act Application will be awarded the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant. Awards range from \$650 to \$1,700.

## Awarding Timeline

Undergraduate students were awarded on April 28th, 2020. If you were determined eligible then you can view your UCSB CARES Grant or UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant on [My Aid Status](#).

## Refund Timeline and Processing

These awards will be refunded to students in full. This means that they will not be applied to any outstanding balance on BARC.

We highly encourage those who are able to sign up for eRefund with the BARC office. The alternative of receiving a paper check delays the process of receiving your funding. Sign up now for eRefund by logging in to [MyBARC](#) and following the instructions found [here](#).

## Appealing for Support

We recognize that all students have been affected by the current situation in one way or another. Though we were not able to award all students, we have established an appeal process so that students can notify us of their circumstances. If you are a student that did not receive the UCSB CARES Grant nor the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant but has experienced financial hardship related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, please complete the appeal available [here](#) May 1st. This process is open to undergraduate students only and will be open between May 1st and May 11th. Recipients of funding will be notified and awarded on May 15th.

\*The Graduate Division will establish a parallel direct award process for the graduate student population.