

CARES and HEER Grants FAQs

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) signed into law on December 27, 2020 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) signed into law on March 11, 2021 signed into law on March 27, 2021 is intended to assist students with demonstrated exceptional need to provide Emergency grants to higher education students to cover expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic, including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

CRRSAA and ARP made modifications to the CARES grant to offer assistance all students with exceptional need. The CARES grant funds (CARES), the CRRSAA grant funds (HEER) and the ARP grant funds will be distributed to enrolled students for living expenses as related to the impact of the pandemic on your family. Additionally, you have the option to request a HEER (Higher Education Emergency Tuition Relief) grant to assist you with tuition, housing and books.

As you apply, please understand, in keeping with federal guidance, Belhaven University is prioritizing students with the greatest financial need as determined from the results of your completed FAFSA or other means when the FAFSA is not an option.

[Apply for CARES emergency grant](#)

[Latest Report of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students](#)

Who is eligible to receive funds through the CARES grant and/or HEER grant?

Only students admitted and/or enrolled at Belhaven University during the pandemic months are potentially eligible receive emergency financial aid grants.

Eligibility criteria includes but is not limited to the following:

- Must complete the FAFSA (to determine need)
- Must demonstrate exceptional need after exhausting all other resources
- Must be admitted and/or enrolled at Belhaven University during the pandemic months
- Must be seeking a degree with a plan to graduate

Because the limited funds allocated to Belhaven University are insufficient to meet every need of all of our students during these unprecedented times, the university will, at the suggestion of the U.S. Department of Education, prioritize funds based on the following criteria:

- Pell eligible students
- Students with a 0 EFC on the current year Student Aid Report (results from the FAFSA)
- U.S. citizens and domestic students
- Students with exceptional need
- Students with no other resources for assistance
- Students with housing or food insecurities (such as pending foreclosures, evictions and/or utility cutoff)
- Students with documented job loss

What are eligible expenses for requesting emergency assistance through the CARES or HEER grants?

Emergency financial aid grants are available to students experiencing financial hardships during the period of the coronavirus pandemic as related to outstanding tuition and living expenses; including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Examples of expenses include:

- *Technology for online courses*
- *Additional course materials*
- *Unexpected/extra travel costs*
- *Emergency or increased costs of child care*
- *Rent or Housing expenses*
- *Outstanding tuition*
- *General living expenses*

Examples of expenses that are not considered as campus disruption expenses:

- *Future tuition costs.*
- *Replacing wages from the loss of a job for you or your family is not an expense that is reimbursable since this is a change in your financial need and not an incurred expense.*

Why am I being asked to complete a separate form or application?

For the CARES and CRRSA Acts compliance, the university is required by the US Department of Education to confirm certain information before awarding the emergency grant monies.

Why is the amount I received less than what I requested?

In keeping with guidance from the US Department of Education, Belhaven University is prioritizing students with the greatest financial need. Additionally, award amounts may be less than amounts requested based on available funding and/or reasonable expenses. Applications requesting excessive amounts may be required to document expense.

How is exceptional need assessed for emergency financial aid grants for students?

All documented need requests will be considered, however, all resources, such as other available aid, will be also considered when determining those students with greatest, exceptional need.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Tuition assistance grants cannot be considered if there is no outstanding tuition
- Students without access to any other assistance will be prioritized above a student with thousands of dollars of assistance from other resources.

Can I submit a second application for additional expenses at a later date?

Yes. Additional applications are accepted for review. However, detailed expenses should not be duplicated.

Is there a maximum amount for these grants?

Yes, the maximum amount cannot exceed the Pell grant amount in general.

Are these funds taxable?

These funds are not taxable.

Will I have to pay back the funds?

The funds are awarded as a grant which do not have to be repaid and are not considered a loan. Repayment would be required if false or misleading information is provided resulting in emergency aid being issued under false or fraudulent pretenses.

How long will it take to receive funds?

Dependent upon verification of data and assessment of need, funds should be distributed within 10 to 20 business days of receipt of your application for students who have previously submitted a FAFSA. To expedite receipt of your funds, ensure your ACH details are updated on Blazenet.

How can I update my banking information?

Login to Blazenet and navigate to Account Summary. Under Helpful Links ==> Direct Deposit Authorization

Why do I see the funds in my Blazenet account, but not in my bank account?

Dependent on your financial institution, it may take 24-48 hours for the funds to show up in your bank account once the refund is reflected on your Blazenet student account.

How can I get an answer to a question not covered by these FAQs?

For answers to questions not covered by these FAQs, please email studentaid@belhaven.edu