

CARES Act

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020 is intended to provide economic relief for individuals impacted by the pandemic as related to **expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus**.

As you apply, please consider that while Belhaven University was granted \$1.1 million dollars in CARES funding, with our student population that would be less than \$250 per student. Therefore, in keeping with federal guidance, Belhaven University is prioritizing students with the greatest financial need.

[Apply for CARES emergency grant](#)

[Report of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students as of June 01, 2020](#)

Who is eligible to receive funds under the CARES Act?

Only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. Students must be currently enrolled at the University.

Eligibility includes but is not limited to the following:

- Degree-seeking
- Valid Social Security number
- Registered for Selective Service (if required by law)
- U.S. citizen or an authorized non-citizen
- Making Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Not in default on a federal loan
- Cannot be in one of the online programs (per CARES-specific requirements)

As of May 04, 2020, you must be currently enrolled for the Summer 2020 or Fall 2020-21 terms to be eligible to receive funds under the CARES Act.

What are eligible expenses for requesting an emergency financial aid grant through the CARES Act?

Emergency financial aid grants to students are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Examples of campus disruption expenses include:

- *Purchases for technology for online courses*

- *Additional course materials*
- *Unexpected/extra travel costs*
- *Emergency or increased costs of child care*
- *Purchases of meals that were previously provided on-campus*
- *Rent you incurred due to relocation away from campus*

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

- *Paying the same amount for rent, food, internet services and child care expenses as you were previously paying, even if you are in a different location. No new expenses have been incurred.*
- *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 Act compliance, the university is required by the US Department of Education to confirm certain information before awarding the CARES Act 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.

How is financial need assessed for emergency financial aid grants to students under the CARES Act?

Estimated family contributions as determined from information submitted in the FAFSA and limits by category of expense as well as overall maximum amounts are considered for the assessment of a student's financial need.

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

Applications are limited to one per student.

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 be reflected in your 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