



Bloomsburg University
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental
Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)
Financial Aid Grants to Students
Decision Memo (Position Paper)
January 2021

Background

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act was signed into law, resulting in an allocation of funding to Bloomsburg University in the amount of \$3,953,393 to be used for emergency financial aid grants to students. All financial aid grants to students must be disbursed within one year of receiving funds (Grant Award Notification dated January 17, 2021).

Federal guidance provides significant discretion on how to award the emergency financial aid grants to students. The guidance clearly articulates that institutions are expected to prioritize students with exceptional need. These grants may be used for any component of a student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care or child care. Unlike the CARES Act funding, CRRSAA funds can be applied directly to a student's university bill as long as affirmative confirmation has been received from that student. Funds may also be used for pre-award costs incurred on or after December 27, 2020, the date of the enactment of the CRRSAA.

Reporting requirements have not been provided at this time.

Decision/Position

After significant conversation with the President, his Cabinet, and consultation with our audit team, the university plans to award the majority of funding within the next 30 days as outlined in the tables below (figures are estimates):

EFC Range	UGRD Headcount	UGRD Award	UGRD Total \$ Awarded
\$0-\$5,711 (Pell eligible)	2,211	\$700	\$1,547,700
\$5,712 +	3541	\$600	\$2,124,600

EFC Range	GRAD/DOCT Headcount	GRAD/DOCT Award	GRAD/DOCT Total \$ Awarded
\$0 +	392	\$600	\$235,200

Awarding procedures: Students will be identified via a query that will separate them by Estimated Family EFC. We expect to upload each list of students and assign the appropriate award amount via the external awards process in MyHusky. Each student will receive an e-mail communication that explains the award and provides instructions for application to their bill if desired (see Attachment A).

CARES Act emergency financial aid grant funding disbursed immediately: \$3,907,500 or 98.8% of the emergency financial aid grant funding awarded to the university.

The remaining funding (\$45,893) will be set aside for special conditions. These funds will be distributed via an application process which will be reviewed by the Financial Aid office. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on the nature of the exceptional circumstances due to COVID-19.

The university intends to post a CRRSA Act Financial AidGrant FAQ to its webpage, specifically the Financial Aid and Student Billing Office webpages. This document can be found in Attachment B.

Attachments (2) – Student Notification of Award (A) and FAQs (B)

ATTACHMENT A

Dear Student:

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act was recently signed into law giving Bloomsburg University the ability to award emergency grants directly to students. You have been awarded \$XXXXX.

If you owe a current or past due balance to Bloomsburg University and would like to apply this award to your outstanding bill, please send an email from your BU email account to bursar@bloomu.edu indicating how you would like for us to proceed. Deadline to indicate your agreement to apply to your balance must be received no later than _____.

Any amount that is not applied to your MyHusky account will be refunded to you via direct deposit or a check mailed to your home address of record. Your payment will be made to the account indicated in your direct deposit information in MyHusky on approximately XXXXX. If you have not signed up for direct deposit and wish to do so, please log into MyHusky and designate the appropriate account information as soon as possible. A tutorial can be found here: https://intranet.bloomu.edu/documents/fin_bus_svcs/secure/MyHusky_AddDirectDepositInfo.pdf.

Stay safe Husky!

ATTACHMENT B

CRRSA Act Financial Aid Grants Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the CRRSA Act Fund?

A. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act gives Bloomsburg University the ability to award financial aid grants directly to students.

Q. How do I qualify for an Emergency Financial Aid Grant?

A. Federal guidance indicates CRRSAA funds are to be prioritized for students with exceptional need. Therefore, students who are Pell eligible (EFC of 0-5711) will receive \$700 while all other students who have completed a FAFSA and are in degree programs will receive \$600. Students receiving the award will be notified by the Financial Aid office.

A portion of the funding will be reserved for special condition situations related to the coronavirus. Special conditions will be reviewed by the Financial Aid office and funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on the nature of the exceptional circumstances due to COVID-19. The special condition

Q. Are the CRRSA Act Funds available for both undergraduate and graduate students?

A. Yes.

Q. Can I use my CRRSA Act Fund award to help cover a current/outstanding balance or can it be applied toward a future semester's charges?

A. Yes. Students are entirely responsible for directing the use of their CRRSAA funds. Students who are eligible, have already received an email notification regarding their award amount and procedures for applying funds to an outstanding balance.

Q. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

A. Please contact the Financial Aid office at 570-389-4297 or buaid@bloomu.edu.