

FLORIDA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**Disclosure regarding Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

Quarterly Report: 10/1/2021 – 12/31/2021

Date Posted: 1/10/2022

The *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021* (“CRRSAA”), Pub. L. No. 116-260 (December 27, 2020) and the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (“ARP”), Pub. L. No. 117-2 (March 11, 2021), provided relief to institutions and students for costs associated with the coronavirus emergency. The coronavirus emergency is defined in Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020, “Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak,” Federal Register Vol. 85, No. 53 at 15337-38.

Under both CRRSAA and ARP, the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”) has allocated funds to Florida National University (OPEID 025476) to be used to “provide financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education), which may be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.” See CRRSAA § 314(c)(3); ARP § 2003.

In accordance with the Department’s May 13, 2021, Federal Register Notice, the University provides the following information.

1. The University acknowledges that it signed and returned to the Department the applicable Certification and Agreement and assures that it has used, or intends to use, all funds allocated to it under CRRSAA and ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. Florida National University’s Allocation:
 1. Total CRRSAA allocation: \$4,055,230, which will be used only for student Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
 2. Total ARP allocation: \$2,451,026, which will be used only for student Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP programs during the period covered by this report: **\$4,097,100.00**
4. The estimated total number of students at the University eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA and ARP programs is **3,530**. All FNU students are eligible to receive emergency grants under the CRRSAA and ARP programs, including U.S. citizens, permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients and similar undocumented students, and international students.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under the CRRSAA and ARP programs during the period covered by this report: **2,138**.
6. FNU is distributing Emergency Financial Aid Grants to eligible students (defined above) who are (1) enrolled at FNU in a term that begins before the COVID-19 national emergency declaration is terminated, (2) in a degree or certificate program or as a transient student, and (3) enrolled at the time grant awards are calculated.

FNU's process for distributing Emergency Financial Aid Grants prioritizes students with exceptional need. Grants are divided into three tiers of equal amounts, with students demonstrating greater need and meeting other criteria receiving a higher tiered amount as follows: (1) Tier 1: Domestic undergraduate regular (degree- or certificate-seeking) students with an "estimated family contribution" ("EFC") of \$0 (highest grant amount); (2) Tier 2: Domestic undergraduate regular students with an EFC that qualifies them to receive a Pell Grant; and (3) Tier 3: All other eligible recipients (including students for whom FNU does not have an EFC) (lowest grant amount). A student's EFC is determined based on their most recent FAFSA (ISIR) on file. FNU determined that awarding higher grant amounts to students with greater need (as reflected by EFC and resulting Pell eligibility) will "prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants," as required by CRRSAA. The process further prioritizes domestic undergraduate students, consistent with ED guidance. Domestic undergraduate regular students without a FAFSA on file may submit one by the deadline established by the University to have their level of need considered. Eligible students without a FAFSA (ISIR) on file by such deadline, and all international students, graduate students, and transient (non-degree or certificate-seeking) students, will be eligible for a Tier 3 grant.

Students must complete a Grant Election Form to be considered for a grant. FNU has emailed each potential recipient with a copy of the Grant Election Form and instructions for being considered, including information for eligible students who have not filed a FAFSA. Once selected for a grant, FNU will notify a student of the award amount and provide instructions regarding permitted uses of the funds. Students will be advised to return any Emergency Grant funds expected to exceed their relevant permitted expenses. Emergency Grants will be paid directly to students and are not conditioned on a student's continued or future enrollment.

Any funds remaining following the initial disbursement process, including any funds returned or not claimed by a student, will be allocated to other students with need or returned to ED. Subsequent rounds of Emergency Grants, if any, may be in different amounts and subject to different eligibility criteria.

7. Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the University to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants appear in the appendices below.

Questions regarding this disclosure should be directed to Omar Sanchez, Vice President and Director of Financial Aid, at omarsnc@fnu.edu.

I. **Appendix A: Announcement Email – CRRSAA/ARP Grants**

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS – ACTION REQUIRED

Dear [Student name] (Student ID [number]),

FNU has been awarded funding to provide additional Emergency Grants to students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. FNU has determined that you may be eligible for an Emergency Grant. **These grants do not have to be repaid.**

Emergency Grants may be used for any component of your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.¹

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE GRANT ELECTION FORM BY [Deadline] TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT.
PLEASE CLICK HERE: [LINK]**

Completing the Grant Election Form does not guarantee that you will receive an Emergency Grant, or any particular amount of funds. Students will receive varying amounts of grant funds based on financial need (as determined using the FAFSA) and other eligibility criteria, and requirements and criteria are subject to change. All grants are subject to the availability of funds. If you have any questions, please contact Kesia Garlobo (kgarlobo@fnu.edu) or Omar Sanchez (omarsnc@fnu.edu).

Information for Undergraduate Students who did not file a FAFSA

If you reside in the United States and are a degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate student, you may be eligible for a larger grant amount based on information in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid. If you did not file a FAFSA and would like to be considered for a larger grant amount based on your financial need, please submit a FAFSA now at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. The University must receive your FAFSA results by [Deadline] for your need to be considered. Make sure to list FNU's federal school code, 017069, in Step Six of the form. You are strongly encouraged to complete a FAFSA online, at least two weeks before the deadline.

If you already filed a FAFSA with FNU for the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 award year, or are a graduate, international or transient student, no FAFSA is required. You must still complete the Grant Election Form to be considered for a grant.

¹ Note: An initial version of this communication (and the related election form) included a voluntary option for students to request the University to apply their grant funds directly to their outstanding account balance. The University learned this option may have caused confusion among students. To ensure that all students have maximum flexibility in use of the Emergency Grant funds, FNU determined it would be most appropriate to issue funds directly to all recipient students. Students were notified of this update and given an option to retract their overall grant election accordingly.

II. Appendix B: Grant Election Form – CRRSAA/ARP Grants (current)

EMERGENCY GRANT ELECTION FORM

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Florida National University has been provided funds to issue Emergency Grants to students under the federal stimulus legislation known as the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021* (“CRRSAA”) and the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (“ARP”). Please complete this form by **[Deadline]** to be considered for an Emergency Grant. Grants do not have to be repaid.

Grant Election

Submit this form if you want to be considered for an Emergency Grant. By submitting this form, you confirm you have incurred, or expect to incur in the future, expenses related to any component of your cost of attendance at FNU or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

Do not submit this form if you do not want to receive an Emergency Grant, or do not expect to incur any of the expenses described above.

Please do not submit this form more than once. Completing this form does not guarantee that you will receive a grant or any particular amount of funds. All grants are subject to the availability of funds. Students who are awarded an Emergency Grant will receive an email with the amount of the grant and other instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Kesia Garlobo (kgarlobo@fnu.edu) or Omar Sanchez (omarsnc@fnu.edu).

Signature

Date

III. Appendix C: Disbursement Email – CRRSAA/ARP Grants

EMERGENCY GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Dear [Student name] (Student ID [number]),

Based on the University's receipt of your signed Emergency Grant Election Form[, information you provided regarding your financial need,] and other eligibility criteria, you have been awarded the following Emergency Grant: *(Note: Bracketed phrase inserted depending on eligibility status and information provided.)*

- Emergency Grant Amount: \$ [amount].

Grants funds will be provided by check mailed to your home address. **By accepting and/or using the Emergency Grant funds, you agree to the following:**

- Any Emergency Grant funds provided to you may be used only for expenses related to any component of your cost of attendance (defined below) or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. The "cost of attendance" is an estimated budget of student educational expenses for enrollment at the University. For full-time students, this includes allowances for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, technology required for enrollment, dependent care (for students with dependents), one-time professional license or certificate costs, expenses related to a student's disability, and education loan fees. For part time students, the "cost of attendance" includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and dependent care.
- These may be expenses you have already incurred or expenses you will incur in the future. However, you may not use this money to satisfy any expenses already covered by any Emergency Grant funds you previously received from FNU.
- If you do not expect to use all of the Emergency Grant funds for these expenses, please contact the Financial Aid Office by May 31, 2022 to return any excess funds.

This grant does not have to be repaid.

Please note grant checks will be voided (expire) if not deposited within 60 days from the date that appears on the check.

If you do not receive your check within 30 days after receiving this email or if you have any questions, please contact Kesia Garlobo (kgarlobo@fnu.edu) or Omar Sanchez (omarsnc@fnu.edu).

IV. Appendix E: Reminders

As needed, the University may issue reminders to eligible students who did not respond to the University's initial announcements.