

# Federal Emergency Relief Funds

## Q&A

Report Updated on January 16, 2021



### **Q: What is Federal Emergency Relief Funding?**

A: The Federal Emergency Relief funding was established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act approved by Congress in December 2020. A portion of the funds are designated to provide financial assistance 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 childcare. The funds may be available whether or not students currently receive financial aid. Baker College is responsible for administering these federal emergency funds as defined by the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

### **Q: Who qualifies for the Federal Emergency Relief Funds?**

A: While we understand that all students have been impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic, these federal funds contain very specific eligibility requirements. To qualify for funding, you must meet all of the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
- Incurred increased expenses or have the inability to pay expenses as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Examples could include increased medical expenses, job loss, reduced hours, illness, etc.

### **Q: How much Federal Emergency Relief will a student receive?**

A: The type of assistance will be determined based on the requests submitted on the Emergency Relief Funds Application. The amounts will be calculated based on an overall average of expenses incurred, the amount of federal funds BC receives, and the number of applications submitted. In addition, the funds will be prorated based on the student's financial aid need level (utilizing the EFC as calculated through the FAFSA process).

### **Q: How will a student know they have been awarded?**

A: If awarded, students will receive an email with details about their award. Please note that funds are extremely limited (or may be exhausted). Students will be awarded as long as funds remain available.

# Federal Emergency Relief Funds

## Q&A

Report Updated on January 16, 2021



### **Q: How will students receive their funds?**

A: The funds will be awarded by financial aid and will be applied to their BC account. Funds designated for personal expenses will be refunded to students through the refund preference set up with BankMobile. Students who have not previously received refunds are encouraged to visit our [BankMobile article](#) for further information on this process. If a refund preference is not established, it may take 3 weeks for the student to receive their funds.

### **Q: Do students who are enrolled only in online classes qualify for the Federal Emergency Relief Funds?**

A: Yes. These funds differ from the CARES Act funds previously administered. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, all students who are financially impacted by Coronavirus-related situations may qualify for the funding.

### **Q: Do Graduate Studies students qualify for the Federal Emergency Relief Funds?**

A: Yes. These funds differ from the CARES Act funds previously administered. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, all students who are financially impacted by Coronavirus-related situations may qualify for the funding.

### **Q: Are the Federal Emergency Relief Funds considered taxable income?**

A: No. Federal Emergency Relief Funds are for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income.

### **Q: Is a student required to complete the FAFSA to qualify for emergency funds?**

A: No, students are not required to complete the FAFSA for these federal emergency funds; however, it is strongly encouraged. These emergency funds are prioritized to the students with the highest need based on FAFSA completion. To qualify the student must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.

### **Q: Will any consideration be given to students who do not meet the deadline to apply for these funds?**

A: Yes, as long as funds remain available. Students are encouraged to complete the application to make us aware of their needs. If additional funding becomes available in the future, this will allow us to quickly assist students.

# Federal Emergency Relief Funds

## Q&A

Report Updated on January 16, 2021



**Q: Will the Federal Emergency Relief Funds result in a reduced financial aid award in the future?**

A: No. Federal Emergency Relief funds are not a consideration for financial aid awarding and will not impact the amount of aid or student loans you qualify to receive.

**Q: Will funds be available in future semesters?**

A: Our intent is to disburse funds as quickly as possible to assist students impacted by Coronavirus. Any future funding will be dependent on Congress approving additional appropriations.