

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act)

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Report Created on March 31, 2021



Certification and Agreement

On April 13, 2020 Baker College signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement document under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Under the CRRSA Act, supplemental grant funds were provided to schools under the CFDA 84.425E. The CRRSA Act Student Grant funds became available to Baker College on January 17, 2021, with a total amount allocated for student grants of \$2,877,191.

Eligible Students

Under the CRRSA Act, funds are used to make 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), transportation or child care. Under CRRSA Act, grant funds must be prioritized for students with exceptional need.

Baker College utilized an application process to determine how students were impacted by Coronavirus. The exceptional need level of students was determined using a combination of the requests indicated on the emergency fund application, how the student indicated they were impacted by Coronavirus, and the student's EFC calculated through the FAFSA application process. The amount of funding awarded was determined based on the same elements to ensure funds were provided to students with the greatest need.

Approximately 6700 students were determined to potentially qualify for the CRRSA Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants. Communications were sent to all potentially eligible students notifying them of their potential grant eligibility with a link to the application.

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Funds Distributed as of March 31, 2021

Baker College has distributed CRRSA Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 1,346 students (including 37 students awarded funds from the Institutional Grant portion of the CRRSA Act)

Baker College has distributed the full amount of Student Grants (\$2,877,191). In addition, Baker College has awarded \$77,108 to students from the Institutional Grant portion of the CRRSA Act.

Methodology to Determine Who Receives Funds

While Baker College understands that all students have been impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic, these federal funds contain very specific eligibility requirements. Qualified students must meet all of the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- Registered in at least one course for fall 2020 or spring 2021 semesters
- Enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree program (not in secondary school)
- A US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
- Completed the Emergency Relief Funds Application

Methodology to Determine Grant Amounts

The type of assistance was determined based on the student's responses listed on the Federal Emergency Relief Funds Application. The maximum amounts were determined based on the living allowance figures used to calculate the cost of attendance for one semester; the amount awarded to students was prorated based on the student's need level utilizing the EFC calculated from the FAFSA application.

Students who requested emergency assistance with tuition expenses (costs they are unable to pay due to Coronavirus) were also awarded funds to help pay their outstanding charges.

The maximum living allowance figures for CRRSA Act funds are:

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- Technology assistance: \$500
- Equipment purchase: up to \$500
- Living allowance: up to \$1100
- Housing expenses: up to \$1200
- Child care: up to \$1200
- Transportation: up to \$500
- Medical expenses: up to \$1000

Student Notification & Instructions

On January 7, 2021 an email and follow-up text message was sent to all potentially eligible students (students who had attended on or after March 13, 2020). The email included instructions for completing the application for emergency relief funds and clarified the eligibility changes under this new grant. The email message also included information about re-evaluation (professional judgment) in the event that the student was unemployed (or had reduced income) as a result of Coronavirus.

Students that applied for and qualified for CRRSA Act funds with an outstanding balance were sent a follow-up email in February with a link to an authorization form to determine if the student wanted their emergency funds to be applied toward their outstanding balance. The email clearly stated that the authorization was voluntary and would not impact their total award.

Additional Funding

On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law. Baker College anticipates receiving additional student emergency grant funding through this Act, but is awaiting the funding amount and requirements for this grant program. Additional details will be provided to students once they are available.

Questions regarding the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students should be directed to: financialaid@baker.edu.