

## CARES Act

The federal government recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. A portion of this legislation is to support college and university students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

The CARES Act provides money to cover student expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Eligible expenses include those considered as the student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

The CARES Act does exclude the following students from receiving awards:

- PSEO students (Online College in the High School, concurrent enrollment, regular PSEO)
- Exclusively online students
- Incarcerated students
- Students paying the senior citizen rate/noncredit courses
- DACA and Dream Act Students
- International students with Educational Visas

The list of eligible students is based on those enrolled as of March 6, 2020. Eligible students will receive \$275 **or** \$550 awards based on financial aid Pell eligibility. Money will be transferred to direct deposit bank accounts on file. If students do not have a direct deposit bank account set up, a check will be mailed to the permanent address listed in [eServices](#).

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## Emergency Grants

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We encourage all CARES Act eligible students experiencing financial hardships due to COVID-19 disruptions to apply for emergency CARES grants. Minnesota West understands that the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted many students and families. We will work diligently to review each application within three business days. The Financial Aid Office is here to help you through this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to contact the Financial Aid Office by emailing [financialaid@mnwest.edu](mailto:financialaid@mnwest.edu) if you have any questions. You can find COVID-19 related information at the following link - <https://www.mnwest.edu/coronavirus>  
The CARES Emergency Grant Application can be found at <https://www.mnwest.edu/coronavirus>

Note: You may be asked to log in with your MinnState email ([YourStarID]@go.minnstate.edu) and password if you are not already logged in to Microsoft Office online.