

## CARES Act Award FAQ (External)

### What is CARES Act funding?

The Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Part of this act allocated funds to colleges and universities to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

### Who is eligible CARES Act funding?

CARES Act funding has two different portions – student emergency grant funds and institutional funds. Students may be eligible for one or both parts of the funding, depending on their situation and eligibility criteria.

#### Student Portion Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a Residential student
  - o On-campus, off-campus, or living with parent(s) all qualify
- Must be an undergraduate or graduate student, including Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (LUCOM) and School of Law students
- Must have maintained enrollment in the Spring 2020 term at any level (less-than-half-time enrollment category through full-time enrollment category qualifies)
- Must have a valid FAFSA on file for the 2019-2020 award year
- Must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards during the Spring 2020 semester
- Must not be in default on a federal student loan
- **\*Note:** Per the U.S. Department of Education, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), or enrolled exclusively in online programs are **not eligible** for CARES Act funds.

#### Institutional Portion Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a Residential student
  - o On-campus, off-campus, or living with parent all qualify
- Must be an undergraduate or graduate student, including Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Law students
- Must have maintained enrollment in the Spring 2020 term at any level (less-than-half-time enrollment category through full-time enrollment category qualifies)
- Per U.S. Department of Education, students that do not meet Title IV eligibility requirements under the student portion (i.e. international) could be eligible under the institutional portion, **with the exception of DACA students and online students.**

### What do I need to do to obtain CARES Act funding?

Students will need to complete the electronic self-certification to be considered for CARES Act funding. Eligible students will receive an email with a link to the form in their Liberty email account. To log in, simply use your Liberty username and password. This form is the acknowledgement that expenses were incurred due to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

The electronic self-certification form deadline is July 31, 2020.

**How much will I receive in a CARES Act funding?**

Amounts will vary for eligible students, but are based upon averages of allowable expenses. Per law, the student portion are emergency financial aid grants to help with expenses typically covered under the Cost of Attendance. This includes items includes but is not limited to food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The institutional portion is based on items that cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.

**How will I receive my CARES Act funding refund?**

Any CARES Act funds, both Student and Institutional, will be sent according to the refund preference you selected in Financial Check-In, and sent through BankMobile. Once it is sent to BankMobile, please allow time for it to be processed based upon the refund preference you have set up. The three refund processing estimates are below:

- BankMobile Vibe Account: 1-2 business days
- Direct Deposit to Personal Account: 2-3 business days for BankMobile to transfer the funds to your bank
- Paper Check: Up to 14 business days to receive the refund check in the mail

**Do I have to wait until after the deadline to receive my CARES Act funding?**

Liberty will be sending funds to BankMobile on a regular basis as soon as the Self-Certification form has been completed by the student and does not produce any conflicts that need to be resolved based on the responses.

**What if I want to change my refund preference?**

You can do this on BankMobile's website (<https://bankmobilevibe.com/>). You will need to log in, go to Refunds, Refunds Preference, and click on Update. Follow the prompts on the screen to update your preference.

**I am an Online student. Am I eligible for CARES Act funding?**

Per the U.S. Department of Education, students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program are not eligible for any CARES Act funding-student or institutional portions.

**I have a balance due and I am on a payment plan. Will CARES Act funding go toward my balance first before issued as a refund?**

Any of the CARES Act funding you receive from Liberty University is separate from your account balance with Liberty. If you are currently on a payment plan, any awarded funds from the CARES Act will be distributed directly to you, and you will need to continue to make any scheduled payments on your student account. Liberty is not able to apply any of the CARES Act funding to your student account.

**What is the difference between Student and Institutional Funds?**

Liberty University has been allocated funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The university must use at least 50% of those funds for emergency financial aid grants to its students (“Student Portion”) and can choose how to use the rest in its discretion to benefit the institution to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus (“Institution Portion”). **Liberty University has elected to use all of the Institutional Portion to cover allowable expenses for students-meaning 100% of our allocation will be going to our students.**

**Will I have to pay back the CARES Act funding?**

Because the funding is a grant program, the student nor the institutional portion does not need to be repaid.

**Where can I direct questions related to the CARES Act funding?**

You can email [financialaid@liberty.edu](mailto:financialaid@liberty.edu). Please be certain to include specific details as to the request as well as include your name and LU ID number.