WHAT IS CSU CARES?
The CSU Cares Program offers emergency grants for CSU students experiencing financial hardships directly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is made possible through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as existing CSU campus-based resources.

Each CSU campus distributes grants based on three shared CSU principles:
- Student Success
- Equity
- Timeliness and Administrative Simplicity.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
All currently enrolled CSU undergraduate, graduate and professional students as of March 13, 2020 may receive emergency grants funded by HEERF. Grants may be pro-rated for part-time students. Even if students have current financial holds or owe the campus fees or fines, they are still eligible for this program.

WHAT CAN THE GRANTS FUND?
The CSU Cares emergency grants are designed to support student expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These expenses might include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child-care expenses. Grants will be disbursed electronically to student banking accounts or via check. Alternative payment options also exist for students without a current banking account in the United States.

WHAT ARE THE GRANT AMOUNTS?
Grant amounts vary by campus and by student, depending on campus resources and student circumstances. However, grant awards provided via HEERF dollars are not to be restricted by cost of attendance ceilings and are not to counted against a student’s future financial aid award.

HOW WILL GRANT AMOUNTS BE DETERMINED?
Grants are based on a student’s documented financial need and in proportion to the financial difficulty faced as a result of COVID-19. Exceptional need can be determined by Pell Grant eligibility, other federal/state need-based aid or need created by unexpected expenses such as loss of employment or food or housing insecurity. Campuses are encouraged to develop alternative means to confirm that a student demonstrates need apart from FAFSA or CADAA.

HOW CAN I APPLY?
Campuses automatically award grants based on prior financial aid information for many students. In addition, opportunities for all students to access grants will be available via a very brief application.

For more information, contact your campus financial aid office, Dream Center, Basic Needs office or international students office.

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