

Spartan Relief Fund2 - FAQs

March 29, 2021

General

What is the Spartan Relief Fund2?

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, enacted on December 27, 2020, has provided a second round of COVID relief funding to MSU, approximately \$15 million of which will be awarded to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants. These funds are referred to as the “Spartan Relief Fund2.”

How must students use Spartan Relief Fund2 grants?

Students may use these grants for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

Which students are eligible for Spartan Relief Fund2 grants?

To be eligible for these grants, students must:

- be currently enrolled at MSU, and
- have a complete and valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file.

Non-degree seeking, non-credit, dual enrollment, and continuing education students, as well as students exclusively enrolled in distance education, are eligible for emergency financial aid grants.

Are undocumented, DACA, and international students eligible to receive Spartan Relief Fund2 grants?

The U.S. Department of Education has not yet issued written guidance to clarify whether or not undocumented, DACA, or international students may receive emergency financial aid grants. These students are encouraged to contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#) as there may be other non-Federal funds available to them. MSU is committed to providing all students with the support they need during this time.

How will MSU determine which students receive Spartan Relief Fund2 grants?

MSU has developed a system and process for determining how to award these grants in accordance with the law, which requires institutions to prioritize students with *exceptional need*, such as students who receive Pell Grants. To that end, MSU plans to award approximately \$10 million in “block grants” to all eligible students who are within certain categories, as well as approximately \$5 million in “variable grants” to certain eligible students based on an application process.

Block Grants

Will I receive a block grant?

MSU has identified three categories of students with exceptional need; all students within these categories will receive block grants in the amounts stated below.

Students with Exceptional Need*	Block Grant (Per Student)
Undergraduates who are eligible to receive Pell Grants	\$1,000
Undergraduates who are not eligible to receive Pell Grants and have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$10,000 or less	\$800
Undergraduates who are not eligible to receive Pell Grants and have an EFC of more than \$10,000 but no more than \$15,000	\$500

* Based on the student's FAFSA on file for the 2020-21 academic year.

I am within one of the categories of students with exceptional need above. What steps do I need to take in order to receive my block grant?

If you are within one of the categories of students with exceptional need above, you do not need to take any steps to receive your block grant; the funds will be refunded to you according to the standard MSU refund process, using either direct deposit or paper check.

I will receive a block grant. Can I also apply for a variable grant?

Yes; if you receive a block grant but need additional funds for any component of your cost of attendance or emergency costs due to coronavirus, you may apply for a variable grant.

I am a graduate or professional student. Will I receive a block grant?

No, but graduate and professional students may apply for variable grants.

Variable Grants**How do I apply for a variable grant?**

The application is in [StuInfo](http://www.stuinfo.msu.edu). (www.stuinfo.msu.edu). Instructions for completing the application are included along with the application link.

In order to apply, you will need to:

- Log into [StuInfo](http://www.stuinfo.msu.edu) using your MSU assigned NetID and Password
- Indicate that you need assistance to cover any component of your cost of attendance, due to exceptional circumstances; and/or that you have emergency costs, due to coronavirus

- Provide a dollar amount of each relevant cost for which you are requesting support (the more specific you can be, the more likely you are to receive funds)

Note you will not be able to submit an application if you do not have complete and valid FAFSA on file. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete a FAFSA.

How will MSU determine whether to accept an application for a variable grant?

MSU will review applications on a case-by-case basis as they are received. MSU will prioritize those students whose applications demonstrate exceptional need.

I am a graduate or professional student. Can I apply for a variable grant?

Yes; undergraduate, graduate and professional students may apply for variable grants, so long as they are currently enrolled and have a complete and valid FAFSA on file.

I am going to be a new student in the fall. Can I apply for a variable grant?

No. Only currently enrolled students can apply. However, you can expect to receive further detail on how to apply for remaining funds (if any) at new student orientation.

How many applications can I submit?

You can only submit one application online. If your circumstances change after you submit your application, you must contact a financial aid advisor by phone at 517-353-5940 to request additional funds.

What happens after I apply for a variable grant?

An email will be sent to your MSU email account within 48 hours confirming receipt of your application. Another message will be sent to your MSU email account within one week of receipt indicating a decision about your application. An approved request will appear as a credit on your Account Detail link in [StuInfo](#) within two to three business days after an approval decision; the funds then will be refunded to you according to the standard MSU refund process, using either direct deposit or paper check.

Miscellaneous

Will MSU apply Spartan Relief Fund2 grants to outstanding balances on student accounts?

No; MSU will provide the funds to students through their MSU student accounts, but will not apply the funds to outstanding balances on student accounts. Students can use the funds for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs due to coronavirus.

Will my Spartan Relief Fund2 grant affect my eligibility for Federal financial aid?

No; receipt of these grants will not affect students' eligibility for Federal financial aid. Emergency financial aid grants are not counted as estimated financial assistance (EFA).

Are Spartan Relief Fund2 grants taxable?

No; these grants are not counted as taxable or untaxed income.