



Cornell University

Dear Student,

You recently received this communication regarding CARES Act funding. Our records indicate that you have started the process to accept the funding, but have not completed the entire process. If you wish to accept, reduce, or decline this funding please read and follow all instructions below under "Action Required."

Cornell University has accepted the responsibility to distribute funds that had been apportioned through the government's "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)." After reviewing your previously estimated eligibility for financial aid during the spring 2020 academic term, including an additional estimate of possible qualifying expenses you had incurred through the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus emergency, we have determined that you may be eligible for a "HEERF/CARES Award." After you acknowledge for our record-keeping that you've received this notice, you can access your PeopleSoft financial aid records either to accept this award in full, accept a lesser amount matched to the actual expenses you had incurred, or decline to receive this award. Students enrolled in direct deposit will have access to these funds approximately three business days from the date of disbursement. For those not enrolled in direct deposit, the Office of the Bursar will issue a check.

You should expect to receive your award in the exact amount you specify in your acceptance, whether that's the full award or a lesser amount. No part of it will be applied or used to offset any other existing charges, debts, or unpaid balances in your Cornell account. Your award will not be subject to Federal tax or withholding, but current Federal guidance says that you may be asked to list this award as part of filing your 2020 tax return next year (as of today, on a 1098-T form). This amount will not be included in evaluating your future eligibility for Cornell financial aid.

#### Action Required

- Complete the certification form, attesting that you have incurred allowable expenses (such as, but not limited to, housing, food, transportation, course materials, technology and health expenses) related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus during the spring 2020 semester of at least, or in excess of, the amount received.  
[Cornell HEERF/CARES Act Certification Form](#)
- View your award in Student Center and follow instructions to accept, reduce or decline the funding.
- Sign up for [direct deposit](#) if you have not done so already, so these funds can be deposited directly to your bank account

If you have questions about how to claim your award, please email them to [caresfund@cornell.edu](mailto:caresfund@cornell.edu).

With warmest wishes and hopes,

Jonathan Burdick  
Vice Provost for Enrollment, Cornell University