



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Dear ESF Student:

The College of Environmental Science and Forestry has established the Acorn Emergency Assistance Fund (AEAF) to provide grants to support unexpected financial need due to COVID-19 and COVID-19 response measures. These grants, available through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, are designed to help ESF students facing financial difficulty, emergency, or one-time hardships due to Coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. Funds awarded are designed to alleviate short-term financial need and are managed by the Division of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Bursar's Office. Grants awarded do not need to be repaid.

Interested students will need to submit a fully completed and signed application. The deadline for priority consideration is Sunday, June 21, 2020.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who is eligible to receive emergency assistance?

- Undergraduate or graduate degree-seeking students enrolled in credit-bearing courses during the semester in which the impact occurred
- Student must have a proven record of academic progress verified by earned credits, GPA, and be in good academic standing
- Student should have a FAFSA on file with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (or complete one, if applying for funding through this program).
- Student must be able to provide sufficient documentation of financial hardship as required on the application (e.g. certification statement, billing statements, receipts, repair estimates, etc.)
- International and undocumented (DACA) students are not eligible
- Students in online only degree programs are not eligible

How much money is awarded? How can the grant money be used?

- Grants will not generally exceed \$1,000 and are specific to the identified needs. Generally, students will be eligible for one grant only. Preference will be given to students with the highest financial need, as determined by federal aid methodology.
- Grant amounts will be calculated and adjusted based on the total amount of allowable expenses, a tier-based system according to Expected Family Contribution (EFC) (as calculated by the FAFSA), and the total volume of approved applications.
- AEAF grants **can** cover expenses resulting from the disruption of campus operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes technology and connectivity needs related to distance learning, books and other instructional expenses, housing/rent/utilities, food/groceries, medical/dental bills, and child care.
- AEAF grants **cannot** cover tuition or fees, legal fines/expenses, parking tickets/fines, health insurance, and/or study abroad costs.

- Students with allowable expenses significantly higher than \$1,000 may also submit a written and signed request for additional consideration. Requests must be submitted with a fully completed application and documentation which specifically shows expense amounts.

For more information about the Acorn Emergency Assistance Fund, contact the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs at studenthelp@esf.edu or 315.470.6660.