The CARES Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, creates an Education Stabilization Fund, to which nearly $31 billion is allocated.

A guaranteed $12.5 billion will flow from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to higher education institutions based on a formula that considers full-time enrollment of Pell and non-Pell students who are not enrolled exclusively in distance education courses.

Approximately $6.3 billion (50% of the amount received by institutions) of the relief fund must be used to provide direct emergency aid to students in the form of cash for expenses related to disruption of campus operations. Institutions should prioritize highest need students and the continuation of learning. Institutions cannot use this share of funds to reimburse themselves for room and board and other refunds or to provide such refunds to students.

The $6.3 billion for student emergency aid will be released rapidly by the Department of Education. To receive the allocation, institutions must submit a certificate of agreement. The Department of Education believes the allocations will be available by Wednesday, April 14.

For more information, visit the Department of Education’s website here.