Student Emergency Fund

The Student Emergency Fund (SEF) is a joint venture between the Division of Student Affairs and Scholarships and Student Aid. The SEF assists Carolina students by providing financial support when they need assistance with unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable emergency expenses surrounding situations such as accidents, illness, death of a family member, fire damage or need for temporary housing. Currently enrolled students may apply for funds when they have exhausted all other resources (credit card, payment plans, additional student aid, assistance from family/friends, other personal resources). This funding is not intended to reimburse for expenses that have already been paid, or to replace or supplement existing financial aid. If Student Emergency Funds are granted, they do not have to be repaid.

Possible Expenses Covered by the Emergency Fund

(this list is not exhaustive):

- Medications and other costs related to emergency medical care
- Books and other essential academic expenses
- Safety needs (i.e. changing a lock)
- Replacement of essential personal belongings or temporary housing needs, due to fire, theft, or natural disaster
- Travel costs related to a death or illness in the immediate family

Expenses Not Covered

(this list is not exhaustive):

- Tuition, fees, health insurance, and study abroad costs.
- Non-essential utilities (i.e. cable), household, or furniture costs not related to damage or theft.
- Regularly anticipated fixed expenses (i.e. rent).
- Parking tickets.
- Costs for entertainment, recreation, non-emergency travel or other non-essential expenses.
- Other anticipated expenses.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must have an immediate financial hardship resulting from an emergency, accident, or other unexpected critical incident.
- The expense must be unexpected, unforeseen, and the urgent nature unavoidable.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled students.
- All other resources, including emergency loans through Scholarships and Student Aid must
have been considered and are insufficient, unavailable, or not available in a timely manner.

- Applicants must complete all questions in full and submit supporting documentation.
- Have not previously received Student Emergency Funds

**Application Process**

Students who are in need of emergency financial assistance may submit an application and supporting documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students. The Emergency Fund Committee, made up of staff members from both the Office of the Dean of Students and Scholarships and Student Aid reviews the submitted applications and determines the appropriate funding amount. **Funds distributed do not generally exceed $500.** The committee will review applications requesting in excess of $500 for unique and unusual circumstances of emergency financial need. Applicants may be required to meet with a staff member in the Office of the Dean of Students to discuss their application. If you are currently receiving financial aid, please be aware that receiving funding from the Emergency Fund may affect your future aid packages and funds received will be taxed as income. For information on the application please contact our office at (919) 966-4042.

[Emergency Fund Application](https://odos.unc.edu/emergency-fund-application)

**Giving**

The number of students who can be served by the Student Emergency Fund is subject to the availability of funds. The fund must be sustained by continual contributions from alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University.

**Contribute to the Student Emergency Fund**

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**Source URL:** https://odos.unc.edu/student-support/student-emergency-fund

**Links**

[1] https://odos.unc.edu/emergency-fund-application