

## Undergraduate and Graduate Student Microgrant

The UMass Amherst Student Care and Emergency Response Fund Grant Program and the Foster Student Success Fund Grant (Microgrant) seeks to provide emergency Microgrants to enrolled undergraduate and graduate students experiencing an unexpected and/or isolated personal financial emergency. **If requesting support between semesters (*Summer or Winter*), you should have been enrolled during the previous semester and enrolled in the upcoming semester.**

The Dean of Students Office staff administratively manages the program while the Microgrant applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of UMass staff members. **A student may receive only *one* Microgrant per academic year. The maximum amount for a grant is \$500. A student may receive no more than two Microgrants or up to \$1,000 during their degree completion.**

### Application Process:

- A student submits a completed Microgrant application along with supporting documentation for the above emergency (e.g., medical bill, car repair estimate, police report, court dispossession notice, unemployment notice, etc.) to the Dean of Students Office via email at [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu) from their UMass student email.
- Applications are reviewed by the Microgrant Committee. A typical review will take 1-2 weeks.
- In addition to reviewing the application (including your detailed budget sheet) and relevant documents submitted by the student, the committee reviews financial aid information (does the student have unmet need as established by FAFSA?), and the Bursars bill (does the student have an unpaid balance and/or has the student recently received other financial support from the university?).
- Students are notified via email whether the grant is approved or denied. If approved:
  - The Dean of Students Office staff will submit paperwork to the Financial Aid Office who will process the grant.
  - The grant amount is then issued as a refund by the Bursar's Office via [Excess Express](#)

### Some of the reasons requests are DENIED include but are not limited to:

- The student's Bursar bill is unpaid, OR student is requesting funds to be applied to a Bursar bill.
- The student is at the maximum financial aid allotted for the academic year.
- The application does not clearly explain how the grant will resolve the described financial emergency, there is a longer-term financial need for the emergency to be resolved, or based on the information provided it is not an unexpected financial emergency.
- Incomplete application and/or application lacks supporting documentation.
- The student is not an active undergraduate or graduate student according to enrollment information.
- Insufficient funds available in the Student Care and Emergency Response Fund.

## Microgrant Application

SELECT ONE:

- Undergraduate Student Microgrant  
 Graduate Student Microgrant

- Foster Student Success Fund Grant  
*(For current or former foster youth)*

DATE OF REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ SPIRE ID: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE:  Spring  Summer  Fall 20 \_\_\_\_\_

1. AMOUNT REQUESTED (Maximum \$500): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the nature of your emergency. How would this grant assist you in overcoming the financial emergency you are facing?

3. What efforts have you made to procure financing from other sources?

4. Have you applied for other emergency funds on campus? Have you received other emergency funds on campus?

5. Complete this budget sheet to the best of your ability:

**Monthly Income**

Item	Amount	Notes
University Refund for Current Semester <i>(In total)</i>		
Job 1:		
Job 2:		
Job 3:		
Benefits (Social Security, SNAP, G.I. Bill, TANF, etc.)		
Other:		

**Fixed/Variable Expenses (per month)**

Item	Amount	Notes
Tuition Payment Plan <i>(only if you are paying directly, do not include if someone else is paying tuition for you)</i>		
Rent/Mortgage (off-campus)/ Renter's/Home Insurance		
Car Payment/Car Insurance		
Childcare		
Utilities (electric, water, gas, etc.)		
Toiletries/Household Items		
Loan Payments		
Medical Bills/Medication		
Groceries		
Internet/Cable		
Phone		
Other:		
Other:		
Other:		

Submit application and supporting documentation to the Dean of Students Office via email at [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu) using your UMass Amherst email.

Contact the Dean of Students Office at 413-545-2684 or [doso@umass.edu](mailto:doso@umass.edu) if you have questions or need assistance completing the application.

## Student Care Emergency Fund

The Student Care Emergency Fund supports students navigating unexpected financial emergencies. For many students encountering unforeseen expenses can impact their ability to attend to their academics, maintain their personal wellbeing, and at times remain in school and graduate.

The intention of the Student Care Emergency Fund is to remove barriers a student may face due to a financial emergency. The fund seeks to remove a **one-time barrier** a student is experiencing by covering an expense within the range of the fund's grants (\$500 or less).

**A student's financial need and family income are considered in making the grant.** If you have loan availability at financial aid, please start with their office for your needs.

Examples of Emergencies Considered (unexpected, crisis situations)	Circumstances Not Considered* (routine, expected costs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Eviction Proceeding</li> <li>• Travel for death in the family</li> <li>• Broken eyeglasses</li> <li>• Unexpected cost course software</li> <li>• Electricity shutoff notice</li> <li>• A UHS bill leading to a registration hold</li> <li>• Unexpected loss of income due to illness</li> <li>• Car or computer crash/ breakdown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Car Maintenance</li> <li>• Medical Bills from several months ago (these will not impact credit, can be reduced or set to a payment plan at a hospital/clinic)</li> <li>• Parking Tickets</li> <li>• Ongoing Expected Bills</li> <li>• Increased Utility bills</li> <li>• Tuition</li> </ul> <p>*when in doubt, please share your specific circumstance.</p> <p>Please find additional resources <a href="#">here</a></p>

Since Fall 2022, the Dean of Students Office has distributed \$285,656 to 605 individual students thanks to those who have supported this fund.

Here is what one student shared about receiving a grant:

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*"Having the chance to be helped and supported by programs like this has given me the enthusiasm and motivation to continue my education when everything just seemed difficult and impossible. It has provided me with great relief at hard times. I'm thankful for all the assistance I have obtained, and as a student I can say that it feels awesome to know you have a place to go when you're struggling in your financial life." - Student Care and Emergency Response Fund recipient.*

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