

Graduate Student Government Family Grant Fund Information

UMass graduate student parents may request funds for a Family Grant for non-child care related unexpected expenses that would negatively impact academic progress. Funds for this program are provided by the Graduate Student Government, and are restricted to graduate students who are caring for a dependent child. Student Parent Programs manages the approval and disbursement of these Family Grants, which if awarded, will be provided in the form of a scholarship and distributed via student bursar accounts. Family Grants may not exceed one per household per semester, with a maximum \$500 per semester, and no more than 2 semesters funding per household per academic year.

To request funding, please complete the application form and email it, along with any supporting documents, to studentparent@umass.edu with the subject: **Family Grant Application**. The Student Parent Programs Family Grant Committee will review each request and notify the student of the funding decision. If you have questions or need assistance with your application, please contact our staff at studentparent@umass.edu - we are happy to help you!

Application Process:

- Submit a completed Family Grant Application along with any relevant documents to the studentparent@umass.edu from a valid UMass student email
- Applications are reviewed by the Family Grant Committee. In addition to reviewing the application and any relevant documents submitted by the student, the committee reviews financial aid information (does the student have unmet need as established by FAFSA?), and the Bursar's bill (does the student have an unpaid balance and/or has the student recently received a refund from the university?)
- Application meeting (virtual or in person) with SPP staff member to review application and discuss additional support and resource options.
- Students will be notified via email whether the grant is approved or denied

If approved:

- SPP 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

Family Grant Fund Eligibility:

- Family Grants are funded by the Graduate Student Government and are only available to enrolled graduate students in good academic standing. Undergraduate students can apply for a [DOSO Micro grant](#).
- Students must be registered and matriculated as part-time or full-time in the semester that the funds would be provided
- Applicants must be caring for a dependent child while enrolled as a UMass graduate student
- Students must be in good academic standing
- Expenses that will not be considered include, but are not limited to: tuition, fees, and other standard expenses associated with enrolling at the University of Massachusetts

Some of the reasons requests may be denied include, but are not limited to:

- Incomplete application or application lacks supporting documentation
- Application does not clearly explain how the grant will resolve the described financial challenge
- The student is not actively enrolled as a part-time or full-time graduate student according to enrollment information
- The student is already at the maximum financial aid allotted for the academic year
- Insufficient funds available in the Family Grant Fund

Family Grant Application

UMass **graduate** student parents may request funds for a Family Grant for non-child care related unexpected expenses that would negatively impact academic progress. Student Parent Programs manages the approval and disbursement of GSS funded Family Grants, which if awarded, will be provided in the form of a scholarship and distributed via student bursar accounts. Please see Family Grant Information sheet above for information about the process and eligibility criteria for the grant.

To request funding, please complete the application form and email it, along with any supporting documents, to studentparent@umass.edu with the subject: **Family Grant Application**. The application includes a monthly budget sheet that provides the committee a better understanding of your monthly expenses and allows us to connect you to additional sources of support.

Name: _____ Campus ID# _____
UMass Email: _____ Department _____
Local Address _____
Amount Requested _____ Cell/Home Phone: _____
Do you currently have one or more dependent children in your care? Yes _____ No _____

1. Please describe your reason for applying for this grant – please include the nature of the financial challenge and how this grant amount will help you to address this challenge.

2. Please describe your efforts to seek any other financial assistance as well as the outcome of these efforts. (This may include a meeting with a financial aid counselor, application for other university grants or emergency funds, seeking help from a family member, or applying for public benefit programs.)

3. Do you have documentation of the financial need described in question #1? (This may include a medical bill, unemployment notice, etc.) If yes, please submit with your application.

Monthly Budget Sheet

The information provided below is confidential and will only be available to Family Grant committee members. It is used to help us determine if there are additional resources that may be of benefit to you.

Fixed expenses (per month)

Item	Amount	Notes
Rent/Mortgage		
Renter's/Home Insurance		
Car Payment		
Car Insurance		
Childcare		
Other: _____		

Variable Expenses (average per month)

Item	Amount	Notes
Utilities (Electric, Water, Gas, etc.)		
Groceries		
Toiletries/Household items		
Other needed household items		
Medical bills/medication		
Other: _____		
Other: _____		

I affirm that all information is complete and true on this application.

Student Signature

Date

Please indicate which of the following supports you currently receive:

SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program)

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program)

Fuel Assistance Program

DTA Benefits (Department of Transitional Assistance)

Food pantry

Other: