SPH Student Emergency Relief Fund Policy
Office of Student Affairs

Student Emergency Relief Fund

This fund provides financial assistance to SPH students who have been significantly affected by an unexpected catastrophic event. The fund supports students who are left with financial difficulties that can affect both their personal and academic lives.

Through the Student Emergency Relief Fund, the UNC Gillings School and the Office of Student Affairs assists SPH students by providing immediate financial support when they need assistance with unexpected emergency expenses surrounding situations such as accidents, illness, death of a family member, fire damage or need for temporary housing.

This funding is not intended to replace or supplement existing financial aid and does not have to be repaid.

Application Process

Students who are in need of emergency financial assistance must submit an application and supporting documentation to the SPH Office of Student Affairs. The Student Emergency Relief Fund Committee reviews the submitted applications and determines the appropriate funding amount.

Funds are distributed within an average range of $250 to $500. The committee will review applications requesting in excess of $500 for unusual circumstances of emergency financial need. Applicants may be required to meet with a staff member in the SPH Office of Student Affairs to discuss their application.

Types of Expenses Covered

The SPH Student Emergency Relief Fund covers several types of expenses related to an unexpected catastrophic event. The follow list offers examples of expenses covered:

- Rent, utilities, and other essential household expenses
- Medications and other costs related to medical care
- Books and other essential academic expenses
- Safety needs (i.e. changing a lock)
- Replacement of personal belongings due to fire, theft, or natural disaster
- Travel costs related to a death or illness in the immediate family
Expenses Not Covered

The follow list offers examples of expenses NOT covered:

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

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must have a financial hardship resulting from an emergency, accident, or other unplanned event.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in the UNC SPH.
- All other resources must have been considered and are insufficient, unavailable, or not available in a timely manner.

More information

To inquire about or apply for these funds, please contact Sherry Rhodes at 919-966-0064, sph-os@unc.edu, or in 263 Rosenau Hall.