



**Gillings School of Global Public Health Student Relief Fund  
Office of Student Affairs**

The Gillings School of Global Public Health Student Relief Fund typically provides financial assistance to Gillings students who **have been denied** funds from the University Student Emergency Fund, unless there are extraordinary statewide or global disruptions occurring over a short or long period which impact students' ability to cope using their own resources. The [University Student Emergency Fund](#) provides assistance to 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 Relief Fund, the UNC Gillings School assists students by providing financial support when they need assistance with **unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable expenses** surrounding situations such as accidents, illness, death of a family member, fire damage or need for temporary housing.

This funding does not have to be repaid. Per UNC policy, payments will be disbursed to the student's account by the University Cashier's Office. Funds will be applied to any outstanding charges or balances on the student account before a refund is generated. Reach out to the [Office of Scholarships and Student Aid](#) (OSSA) for assistance in determining possible impacts to student financial aid eligibility because of receiving Student Relief Funds.

### **Application Process**

Students who **have been denied** funding are required to submit documentation to the Gillings Office of Student Affairs from the University Dean of Students Office. The Student Relief Fund Committee reviews the submitted applications and determines the appropriate funding amount.

Funds are distributed within an average range of \$250 to \$1000 if funds are available. The committee will review applications requesting in excess of \$1000 for unusual circumstances of unexpected financial need. Applicants may be required to meet with a staff member in the Office of Student Affairs to discuss their application. [Complete an application](#) to be considered for our Gillings School of Global Public Health Student Relief funds. Please provide ample detail about the unexpected expense and attach appropriate documentation with your application.

### **Types of Expenses Covered**

The Gillings School of Global Public Health Student Relief Fund covers several types of expenses related to an unexpected catastrophic event. The following 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 following 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 matriculated in a degree or certificate program in the Gillings School of Global Public Health.
- All other resources must have been considered and are insufficient, unavailable, or not available in a timely manner.

### **More information**

To inquire about these supplemental funds, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at (919) 966-2499 or in 263 Rosenau Hall.

### **Additional Resources:**

#### **Office of Scholarships and Student Aid (OSSA) [Emergency Loan](#)**

UNC-Chapel Hill Emergency Loans are interest-free, short-term loans from the University to help enrolled students in need of temporary funds with emergency expenses. In the event an emergency has arisen and you have exhausted other funding options these provide short-term funding for living expenses, such as food, rent, books, childcare and more. Emergency loans are not approved to pay University charges, such as tuition, which is considered a planned expense. Emergency loans must be repaid by the due date.

#### **OSSA [Budget Concerns](#)**

If a student's cost of attendance budget does not match their expenses, students can complete an [OSSA form](#), to request a budget adjustment.

Some examples of situations where a student might not have enough aid budgeted could be:

- Housing Expenses
- Child Care Expenses
- Health Insurance Costs
- Book Expenses that exceed the budgeted amount

## **OSSA COVID Financial Assistance**

Contact Office of Scholarships and Student Aid (OSSA) and request financial assistance due to impacts from COVID-19 after all other financial resources have been exhausted. See [deadlines by term](#).

## **Federal Assistance Resources**

[SNAP and FCC](#) information can be found on the OSSA website.

## **The Graduate School Graduate [Student Opportunity Fund](#)**

These grants are designed to cover unusual academic expenses typically not funded by other sources such as research grants, graduate program / Graduate School funding for summer research, Graduate School Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowships or Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarships. The Graduate School will accept requests for a wide variety of non-recurring unusual academic needs. Requests for rent, unpaid internships, normal living expenses, and summer tuition for courses offered at UNC-CH during the academic year are not eligible. Grant funds cannot be used for payment of costs accrued prior to the date of an award or to pay loans or reimburse other sources of funds (i.e. departmental funds, grants). The amount of the award granted is based on the current availability of funds.

## **Graduate and Professional Student Government [\(GPSG\) Emergency Fund](#)**

The GPSG Emergency Fund exists to provide financial assistance to graduate and professional students with emergency financial assistance for unforeseen financial circumstances that could hinder their ability to complete their graduate or professional degrees.

The GPSG Emergency Fund may be used to pay for the following:

- Rent, utilities and other essential household expenses
- Medications and other costs related to medical care (self or family)
- Safety needs (i.e. changing of locks)
- Replacement of essential personal belongings due to fire, theft, or natural disaster
- Travel costs related to death or illness in the immediate family
- Costs related to childcare

Due to the limited amount of the Emergency Fund, The GPSG will usually award a maximum of \$500.00 per application.

## **GPSG [COVID Emergency Relief Fund \(CERF\)](#)**

Any fee-paying graduate or professional student who has experienced a COVID-related expense or financial hardship is eligible to apply.

Examples of Expenses Funded:

- Receipt of purchase (or transaction in a bank statement) for any academic need
  - e.g. webcam, mic, laptop as a necessity to the move to online teaching and learning; books you would have otherwise borrowed from the library
- Medical bills for COVID-related care/treatment for self or immediate family
- Lost professional opportunities
  - e.g. rescinded internship, fellowship or other research funding, practicum, job shadow, etc.

- Other lost income
  - e.g. paystub, layoff letter, unemployment check, etc.
- Research delays or redesigns
  - evidence could look like the itinerary for an archival research trip that never materialized, the original prospectus/proposal
- Delayed graduation/time-to-degree extension
  - e.g. the graduate school form requesting an extension, ConnectCarolina screenshot, email trail, etc.
- Childcare expenses because schools are closed
- If any of the above (or other situations not listed) meant that you struggled to pay rent or a mortgage, a rental agreement or mortgage bill (etc.) is evidence

### **UNC Health [Financial Assistance](#)**

The Financial Assistance Program helps relieve the financial burden of medically necessary healthcare services at participating UNC Health entities. The program is available to North Carolina residents with a household income, including assets, at or below 250% for the Federal Poverty Guideline for your family size.

### **Food Pantry**

Students who may be experiencing food insecurity can find an on-campus food pantry that provides food at no cost to students who are facing food insecurity, as well as a comprehensive list of pantries resources throughout the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Durham area.

- CJ's Cupboard/Food Pantry for SPH Students – 2306 McGavran-Greenberg
- Carolina Cupboard Community Food Pantry or e-mail [carolinacupboard@gmail.com](mailto:carolinacupboard@gmail.com)
- [FoodPantries.org](http://FoodPantries.org): A comprehensive list of pantries in Chapel, Hill, Carrboro, and Durham areas

### **Gillings Embedded Counselor**

Stephanie Hoover is a counseling psychologist within the embedded counseling program at UNC's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). In this role, she works exclusively with Gillings residential students, postdocs, and postdocs' spouses to support them with their mental health. Email her at [stephanie\\_hoover@unc.edu](mailto:stephanie_hoover@unc.edu) to schedule and appointment. Available services include an initial assessment of needs, individualized planning for reported concerns, initiating engagement in brief therapy, connection to group therapy services, medication management, and referral coordination. Services are offered both in-person and by telehealth. Same-day, walk-in services are available at CAPS (3rd floor, Campus Health) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

