

Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery
New Hampshire Safer Scholars COVID-19 Campus Modification Program

Program Overview



Governor Chris Sununu has authorized the allocation and expenditure of \$10 million from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (“flex funds”) to assist private, nonprofit colleges and universities as they modify their operations in light of COVID-19 and prepare to reopen their campuses to students in the fall.

COVID-19 has significantly disrupted the operation of colleges and universities in New Hampshire. These institutions must rapidly adapt in order to provide students, staff, and faculty a safe and effective learning environment. The Safer Scholars Program will provide resources to qualifying private nonprofit colleges and universities as they modify their operational practices in response to COVID-19.

Institutions may use Safer Scholars funds for coronavirus testing and contact tracing, and to plan for the isolation and care of those who become infected. Recipient colleges and universities may also use funds to expand fall-semester remote learning infrastructure and to complete modifications related to on-campus learning, such as social distancing, enhanced cleaning of facilities, expansion of lab and instruction times to permit smaller classes, and lecture capture technology. Additional allowable expenses include personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, masks, gowns, hand sanitizers, plexiglass installation, thermometers, and other health monitoring devices.

Qualifying colleges and universities must be New Hampshire-based, approved by the New Hampshire Higher Education Commission, and have a physical campus in this state. Institutions must also be private, non-profit, and tuition dependent, with endowments or reserves of less than \$300 million. If the institution is obligated to file as a charitable trust, it must demonstrate good standing with the New Hampshire Department of Justice’s Director of Charitable Trusts. Funding is to be shared on a pro rata basis between all qualified institutions based on student population attending in person in the State of New Hampshire as of Fall 2019, with a cap of 2,000 students.

Expenditures or modifications made with New Hampshire Safer Scholar Program funds shall be completed by December 15, 2020.

The application is available at <https://www.goferr.nh.gov/apply>. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 on August 7, 2020.

For additional information, please submit an inquiry [here](#).