



# STUDENT & POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SUPPORT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

*Answers to frequently-asked questions*

## **What are NEC's COVID-19 Student & Post-Secondary Student Support Financial Assistance Programs?**

These are one-time financial assistance grant programs to support educational expenses and other necessary items as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **What can the grant funds be used for?**

School supplies, computers, software, distance learning support, home learning equipment and other necessary items needed for students to participate in school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **What is the grant amount?**

Each student in grades preschool-12 is eligible for up to \$1,000. Each post-secondary student enrolled in a full- or part-time degree program is eligible for up to \$2,000.

## **What is the deadline to apply?**

December 11, 2020, or before all available funds run out and the program is closed.

## **How do I qualify for funding?**

1. Certify that you suffered economic impact due to the coronavirus pandemic.
2. Provide details regarding expenses or economic losses for fall 2020 semester.
3. Sign the application form. Unsigned applications cannot be accepted.
4. Attach a copy of the applicant's tribal, state or federal photo ID.

## **Do we need to provide copies of receipts?**

Receipts are not required unless requested. Please include a realistic funding request based on your actual or perceived expenses.

## **Can I apply even if school is in session and has not been closed?**

Yes. NEC acknowledges that during the pandemic, students must be prepared for distance learning at any time should schools close. While some applicants may currently be attending in person, at any moment they may have to switch to distance learning. Thus, NEC is making funding available to purchase necessary items to support or prepare for distance learning.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Student Support Program applicants must meet all these criteria:**

1. Enrolled member of NEC.
2. Be the parent/guardian of a student(s) in grades preschool-12 and enrolled a formal preschool, elementary school, secondary school, homeschool or GED program for the fall 2020 semester/trimester.
3. Experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Provide a copy of your tribal, state or federal identification.

### **Post-Secondary Student Support Program applicants must meet all these criteria:**

1. Enrolled member of NEC.
2. At least 17 years of age or older.
3. Enrolled in a post-secondary program for the fall 2020 semester/trimester.
4. A degree-seeking, full- or part-time, post-secondary student.
5. Experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Provide a copy of your tribal, state or federal identification.

### **I share custody of my child(ren) with another parent. Can we both apply on our child(ren)'s behalf?**

Only one parent or guardian can apply per student. Duplicate applications will not be considered. With respect, NEC requests that parents discuss and decide who will apply on their child's behalf. In the event custody of a student is shared, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to determine who will apply on the student's behalf.

### **Can I purchase a computer or a tablet with NEC funds if we already received one from school?**

Yes—but only if you return the school computer or tablet.

**Are individual applications required for each household member?**

Post-secondary students apply individually. Parents can apply for all tribally-enrolled NEC member students using one application.

**I or my child(ren) have been distance learning from home and internet expenses have increased as a result. Is financial assistance available?**

Yes, if the increased expense was unbudgeted. We have attached a 1-page Internet Assistance Program application to the Student Support Program applications for your convenience. Please note that receipts are required for the Internet Assistance Program. *For more Internet Assistance Program information, please refer to the Internet Assistance FAQ.*

**Can tribal members who do not live in Nome apply?**

Yes. This program is available to all tribal members regardless of residence.

**I am a foster parent of an NEC tribally-enrolled member. Can I apply on my foster child's behalf?**

Yes. Please call our office for assistance.

**Are these programs income-based, or can anyone apply?**

All completed applications will be evaluated based on financial need and household size. All tribal members who feel they have experienced a genuine financial need as a result of COVID-19 are encouraged to apply. Staff will contact individual applicants if additional information is needed.

**Are these grant funds taxable income?**

No, this grant is provided to tribal members on a nontaxable basis in accordance with the requirements of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014

**How long will it take for grant applications to be processed?**

Completed applications will take 5-10 business days to process. NEC will make every reasonable effort to help with any incomplete applications received, but they will take longer to process.

**Will I be notified if I am approved?**

NEC will contact you directly if we have questions about your application or if you are not eligible. Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to notify applicants when their application is approved. If approved, you will receive a check in the mail.

**How will I receive the grant funds?**

Checks will be mailed to the address you provide. With regret, we are unable to hold checks for pick up.

**Where do I submit my completed application?**

**Mail to:** Nome Eskimo Community,  
PO Box 1090, Nome, AK 99762

**Email to:** covid.relief@necalaska.org

**Fax to:** (907) 443-9144

**Drop off at:** the locked mailbox outside our building

**NEC is expecting a high volume of applications. We appreciate your patience! Applications will be processed in the order received. Please allow staff enough time to properly process all applications.**



# Nome Eskimo Community

Box 1090 / 200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Nome, Alaska 99762 Direct: 907-443-2246 / Fax: 907-443-9144  
[scholarships@necalaska.org](mailto:scholarships@necalaska.org)

## COVID-19 Post-Secondary Student Support Program Application

In order to meet the immediate and critical needs of tribal members, NEC is offering this emergency financial aid program to provide post-secondary students support for additional expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may be eligible for a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 per tribal member student in a degree-seeking program who is enrolled in school for the fall 2020 semester. The funds must be used for increased expenses related to COVID-19 for school supplies, computers, software, distance learning support, home learning equipment and other necessary items needed for students to participate in school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Deadline to apply is December 11, 2020, or until funding runs out.  
Grant payments require 5-10 business days for processing.**

**1. Applicant Information:** Only enrolled NEC members qualify. *Leave enrollment number blank if unknown.*

<b>Legal Name (First MI. Last)</b>	<b>NEC Enrollment #</b>	<b>DOB MM/YY</b>
<b>Mailing Address (for grant payment):</b>	<b>Physical Address if different:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address at School if applicable:</b>	<b>Physical Address if different:</b>	
<b>Phone Number: <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Home</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>	

**2. Proof of identity.** You must attach a copy of a valid Tribal, State, or Federal ID is required.

**3. Educational Enrollment.** Applicants must be enrolled in school for in fall 2020 semester.

<b>School Name:</b>	<b>Degree Program:</b>	<b>Credit Hours:</b>

**1. STUDENT SUPPORT GRANT:** If you have experienced financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you are eligible to receive a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 depending on financial need to assist with educational expenses. Are you seeking financial assistance?  Yes  No

**2. How have you been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?** Please check all of the boxes that apply.

- Loss of job                                       Furloughed  
 Reduced work hours                               Incurred additional/unexpected costs  
 Distance learning                                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. FALL EXPENSES:** Grant funds must be used for added or increased expenses or economic losses related to COVID-19. Please list **ALL** of your anticipated expenses for the fall semester 2020 (i.e. September 1– December 30, 2020, or whenever your school year officially starts and ends but no later than December 30, 2020). Include **ALL** anticipated expenses below. Supplies purchased between March 1 – December 30 that are necessary for fall semester 2020 can be included.

Expense	Total Amount	Expense	Total Amount
Computer/tablet	\$	Required software	\$
Distance learning support	\$	Home learning equipment	\$
School supplies	\$	Other	\$
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$</b>	

Have you applied for COVID-19 educational support through any other Federal, State, or Tribal program?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please explain. State what program you are receiving assistance through, where and for how long.			
If yes, how much did you receive?	\$_____ total for _____ months		

By signing, I hereby swear and affirm that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I do hereby certify I am enrolled in a post-secondary institution in a formal degree program. I have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and have experienced financial hardship and incurred expenses or economic loss related to having access to adequate supplies, resources and support for school for the fall 2020 semester. I am applying for the COVID-19 Post-Secondary Student Support Program to meet my basic educational needs.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Internal Use Only**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Code to: 19.20.19.6010  Enrollment verified \_\_\_\_\_  Administration \_\_\_\_\_  Accounting \_\_\_\_\_