



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.



Box 1090 / 200 West 5th Ave. Nome, Alaska 99762 Direct: 907-443-2246 / Fax: 907-443-9144
covid.relief@necalaska.org

COVID-19 Student Support Financial Assistance Application

In order to meet the immediate and critical needs of tribal members, NEC is offering this emergency financial aid program to provide parents/guardians and students support for additional expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may be eligible for a one-time grant of up to \$1,000 per tribal member student in grades preschool – 12, including homeschool and GED students, who are 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:** *This form must be completed by the student's legal parent/guardian.
 Only one parent/guardian may apply on behalf of minor child(ren) if there is a shared custody situation.*

Legal Name (First MI. Last)	NEC Enrollment # (or n/a)	DOB MM/YY
Mailing Address:	Physical Address if different:	
Phone Number: <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Home	Email Address:	

- 2. Proof of identity.** You must attach a copy of a valid Tribal, State, or Federal ID.
- 3. Educational Enrollment.** Applicants must be enrolled in school for the fall 2020 semester.
- 4. Dependents:** *List ALL NEC member dependents living in your household who are in grades preschool – 12 for the fall 2020 semester, including homeschool and GED students. Only enrolled NEC members qualify and should be listed.
 Leave enrollment number blank if unknown.*

Full Legal Name	DOB MM/DD/YR	Age	Sex M/F	Enrollment # (NEC Tribe Only)	School Institution	Grade fall 2020
Total Students in Household						

5. 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 small grant of up to \$1,000 based on financial need per NEC tribal member student to assist with educational expenses. Are you seeking financial assistance? Yes No

6. How have you and your student(s) 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 _____

7. NOME PRESCHOOL: Is your student enrolled in Nome Preschool? Yes No

a. Did your student receive a tablet from Nome Preschool? Yes No

If yes, this tablet was provided by NEC and a second tablet is not an eligible fall expense (below).

8. FALL EXPENSES: Grant funds must be used for added or increased expenses or economic losses related to COVID-19. Please list **ALL** actual and/or anticipated expenses for **ALL** students for fall semester 2020 (i.e. September - December 2020 or when your school semester starts and ends). Include **ALL** expenses for **ALL** dependents 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	\$ _____
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES FOR ALL DEPENDENTS		\$ _____	

9. Has anyone in your household applied/received COVID-19 student or computer assistance through any other Federal, State, or Tribal program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
a. If yes, please explain further. State what program you are receiving assistance through, where and for how long.	
b. If yes, how much did you receive?	\$ _____ total for _____ months

By signing below, I hereby swear and affirm that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I do hereby certify that the listed dependents are enrolled in school for the fall 2020 semester, that I have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and have incurred increased expenses or economic loss related to providing adequate supplies, resources, and support for my child(ren)'s education. I am applying for the COVID-19 Student Support Program to meet my child(ren)'s basic educational needs.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed application to: covid.relief@necalaska.org or to our mailing address.
 Applications can also be placed in our locked drop box outside our Nome office.

Internal Use Only

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