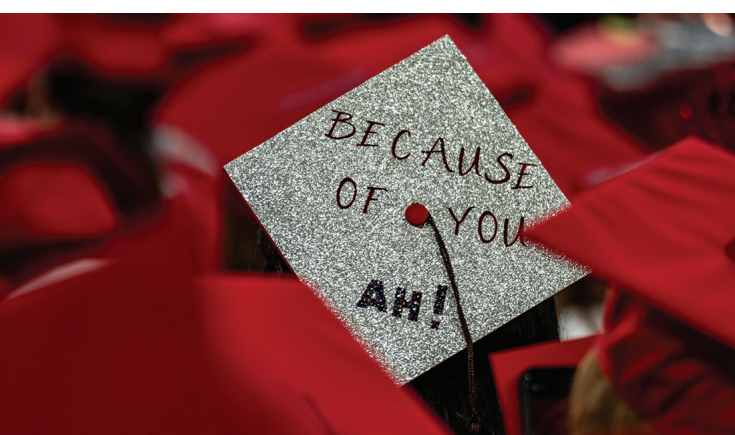




UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
FOUNDATION & ALUMNI



Student Emergency Fund



History

The Student Emergency Fund is the University of South Dakota’s ongoing effort to provide financial assistance to students in need and to remove barriers so that our students receive the highest quality education possible.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, USD launched the Student Emergency Fund to support students who faced major life and financial disruptions, such as unexpected travel and moving expenses, lost income, canceled performances and competitions. Hundreds within the Coyote community stepped up to provide funding to students in need.

While the pandemic has ebbed and flowed, its ramifications remain and students have been forced to continue to adapt to new learning realities and financial circumstances. Other life circumstances can make it difficult for students to afford basic necessities in the event of an emergency.

The USD Student Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to enrolled students who are unable to meet qualifying expenses as a result of emergency situations, such as fires, natural disasters, criminal victimhood, sudden economic downturns, acute medical events, family deaths and other unforeseen catastrophes.

Grant Process

USD awards Student Emergency Fund grants on a rolling basis. Students apply through the USD website and then an established committee reviews applications. Students who are in good academic and financial standing are eligible to receive grants, which are typically around \$500. In its first year, the Student Emergency Fund provided almost \$20,000 total to students in need of financial support.

Eligible Expenses

Grants are intended to cover unforeseen emergencies and essentials, such as:

- Housing assistance
- Medical, mental health or dental costs
- Travel expenses to receive medical care or tend to sick or deceased family members
- Academically necessary textbooks, technology or service costs, such as internet
- Childcare
- Food
- Toiletries, clothing, and other basic needs

Student Emergency Fund grants are not intended to replace or supplement existing financial aid and they do not cover expenses related to non-essential things like study abroad, credit cards and other debts, fines or parking tickets. Awarded grants do not have to be repaid.

Impact

Since 2020, 100 students have been directly impacted by the Student Emergency Fund. Their emergencies could have derailed their college plans, but the availability of funds – made possible by our generous alumni and friends – led to an 85% retention/graduation rate among recipients.

Academic Year	Total Grants	Retention/ Graduation Rate
2020-2021	37	78%
2021-2022	22	91%
2022-2023	41	94%

By making a gift today to the Student Emergency Fund, you will help ensure that our students needing financial assistance during this time of uncertainty are supported by those who care about their education the most.



From Our Students

“Inflation in prices has made it very difficult to keep a work/school balance. I have always prioritized my schoolwork, but I had to work more hours to afford a living. This impacted my grades since I was putting more hours into working than I was schoolwork. The Student Emergency Fund grant gave me more relief and time for school. I am so appreciative and grateful. Thank you!”

- 2022 Grant Recipient

“I have been homeless for the past two months, due to my housing plans falling through. I was sleeping in my car until I got into an accident and have been switching between sleeping at bus stops and hotels when I could afford it. Unfortunately, my grades have suffered greatly because of this. Initially I tried to keep up with everything; however, due to the rising rent prices, I have to work way more than I was anticipating and have not had time for school. The emergency fund will allow me to move into an apartment, the first step in re-prioritizing my school work.”

- 2023 Grant Recipient



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

FOUNDATION & ALUMNI

1110 N. Dakota Street | Vermillion, SD 57069

University of South Dakota Foundation
800-521-3575 | www.usdfoundation.org