



GSSW STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The GSSW Student Emergency Fund provides limited financial assistance to currently enrolled GSSW students who are experiencing unexpected, temporary hardships resulting from emergency or crisis situations. Awards are issued based on need and funds available, and are intended to assist in mitigating short-term financial hardships, which might otherwise prevent students from working toward their educational goals.

This aid fund is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid. Funds are issued as an award and, unlike a loan, do not need to be repaid. Awards may count as income and may be subject to federal and/or state taxes.

TYPES OF EXPENSES THAT MAY BE COVERED

The following includes typical expenses that may be covered by this fund. *This list is not exhaustive:*

- Replacement of essential, personal belongings due to fire, flood, theft, or natural disaster.
- Expenses related to personal medical, dental, or mental health emergencies (not covered by insurance).
- Assistance with rent or utilities due to an emergency situation.
- Safety related expenses, such as emergency/temporary housing or changing of locks.
- Emergency costs related to a family illness or death, including transportation.
- Emergency food assistance (if campus and/or local food pantries are not available).
- Expenses related to emergency dependent care.
- Other expenses related to emergency situations that may impact a student's ability to fully participate in their academic career at DU.

TYPES OF EXPENSES THAT WILL NOT BE COVERED

The following includes typical expenses that will not be covered by this fund. *This list is not exhaustive:*

- Penalties, fines, tickets, legal fees, or jail bonds.
- Typical and anticipated academic expenses (e.g. tuition, fees, health insurance, books, etc.).
- Replacement of non-essential, personal items due to fire, flood, theft, or natural disaster.

- Non-essential utilities, household, or furniture costs not related to damage or theft.
- Costs related to entertainment, recreation, personal or non-emergency travel.
- Costs related to participating in conferences, including travel.
- Outstanding personal debt.
- Reimbursements for expenses already incurred.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (ALL OF THE FOLLOWING MUST APPLY)

- Applicant must be a currently enrolled, degree-seeking student at the Graduate School of Social Work. This encompasses all GSSW programs, including Denver Campus, Four Corners, MSW@Denver, and Western Colorado.
- If the request is submitted during an academic break, the student must be enrolled for the next quarter in order to be considered.
- Applicant must have a financial hardship resulting from a current emergency, accident, or other critical incident that could not have been anticipated.
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate their need and attempt to find relief from other resources.
- While students may apply for emergency funding more than once during their academic career, priority will be given to students who have not applied for this fund within the past year.
- Applicant must be able to provide relevant documentation to verify the circumstances for the funding request. This may include receipts, invoices, bills, estimates, or notices, which illustrate need. **Please DO NOT submit any medical documentation, which contains sensitive, personal information.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The applicant's employment status will not be a factor that is considered in terms of eligibility.
- Funds cannot be issued to applicants with certain financial aid scenarios, including reaching the Cost of Attendance (COA) limit, having \$0 unmet financial need, and/or having an overdue/unpaid balance.

THINGS TO NOTE REGARDING THE GSSW STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

- Typically, award amounts range from \$50 to \$1000 per student, depending on the situation. Awards do not generally exceed \$1000, and requests may not be fully funded.

- Awards are intended to assist in alleviating immediate, short-term financial hardship. This aid fund is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid.
- Students seeking an award may be referred to or required to use additional resources such as:
 - [DU financial wellness](#) or other financial literacy tools;
 - other University resources or aid programs, if needs persist or exceed the scope of this fund.
- If a student is approved for an award from this fund more than once, they may be asked to take part in financial wellness and literacy programs on campus, and may be referred to additional university resources.
- Funds are issued as an award and, unlike a loan, do not need to be repaid. Awards may count as income and may be subject to federal and/or state taxes. **Please note that DU/GSSW will not issue a Form 1099 for students that receive this award.**
- By submitting an application to be considered for an award through the GSSW Student Emergency Fund, students understand that they may be referred to other campus resources and/or support offices as appropriate.
- If there are available campus resources better suited to meeting your needs, we will refer you to them as quickly as possible. Our goal is to help you maintain access to a high-quality, accessible, enriching education and to prevent temporary, emergency needs from interrupting your educational progress to the greatest extent possible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for an award, students must submit an application and supporting documentation via [this form](#). **Please DO NOT submit any medical documentation, which contains sensitive, personal information.** The GSSW Student Emergency Fund Committee, comprised of GSSW staff and faculty, will review the application and determine the funding amount. If approved, students will be notified of the amount and the award will be distributed. Typically, award amounts range from \$50-\$1000 per student depending on the situation.

GIVING TO THE FUND

The number of students who can be served by the fund is subject to available resources. If you are interested in supporting the fund, you may [donate via this link](#).