**February 1, 2026**

# Emergency Assistance Grants

**Report to the Legislature**
**Minnesota State**

In the 2025 legislative session, the Emergency Assistance Grants appropriation was transferred from the Office of Higher Education to Minnesota State as a direct appropriation. Minnesota State is to report to the legislature on information regarding emergency assistance grants, including how appropation dollars were distributed among institutions, how many students received emergency assistance, the average emergency assistance award amount, most common areas of student need, and the average time between application and disbursement to students.

## How money was distributed among college and universities:

Minnesota State utilizes its internal Access and Opportunity formula to distribute Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students (EAPS) funds across the system's 33 colleges and universities. This formula incorporates each institution's percentage of total enrollment (headcount), as well as the number of First-Generation and Pell-Eligible students. The same formula is used in several other Minnesota State funding allocation processes.

Minnesota State has partnered with Beam to implement a software solution that manages the emergency grant process. Beam provides a FERPA-compliant technology platform developed with the guidance of basic needs research and in consultation with The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. The platform offers a fully accessible emergency grant application for students and facilitates one-time emergency payments.

Designated personnel at each Minnesota State college and university are responsible for reviewing emergency grant applications. Decisions—approval, denial, or incomplete—are based on the application content and, when necessary, direct communication with the applicant. All decision-makers receive training and secure access to the Beam platform.

Beam's case management system supports campus-based decision-makers by highlighting key information within each application. This information is used to generate a score that categorizes applications into Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3. Tier 1 represents the highest level of need. The tiering system, informed by student basic needs research and behavioral economics, is intended to assist decision-makers in prioritizing applications.

The emergency grant application is optimized for both desktop and mobile use and has undergone comprehensive quality assurance testing. Through the applicant portal, students receive real-time updates regarding their application status and may resume incomplete applications at any time. Applicants may also upload supporting documentation directly within the active application.

Each Minnesota State college and university maintains flexibility in designing its institutional plan for post-award follow-up. Institutions may provide additional resources, referrals, and

ongoing support to help ensure that students have access to a sustainable system of assistance beyond the immediate emergency.

**How many students received an emergency assistance grant and the average award amount**

- Average award amount: $675.00
- Number of students: 1,636 Emergency Grants funded

**The most common student needs that grants were awarded to meet:**

- Transportation (vehicle trouble, lack of reliable transportation)
- Housing Insecurity (homelessness, unexpected increase in housing cost)
- Food Insecurity (ran out of food, unable to afford to purchase food)
- Healthcare Expenses (unexpected or crisis)

**The average time beween the grant applicaton and disbursement to students:**

Across all 33 colleges and universities the average from completed application submitted to review and decision to payment to student is 6.61 days.

In summary, the Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students (EAPS) program continues to play a vital role in supporting Minnesota State students facing unexpected financial challenges. Through a thoughtful, data-informed allocation process and the implementation of the Beam platform, institutions are able to respond quickly to students' most pressing basic needs. With 1,636 students receiving grants averaging $675 and an average processing time of just 6.61 days, the system demonstrates a strong commitment to timely intervention. The most common requests—related to transportation, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and health needs—underscore the critical importance of maintaining a robust and accessible emergency aid infrastructure.

Minnesota State's continued focus on effective distribution, responsive technology, and student-centered follow-up ensures that emergency assistance remains a powerful tool for promoting student stability, persistence, and success.

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