

COVID-19 Relief Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a COVID-19 Relief Scholarship?

In a year ripe with economic uncertainty amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beta Foundation wants to do its part by offering more than \$170,000 in need-based, COVID-19 relief scholarships for its members. This fall, EVERY CHAPTER will receive \$1,250 to distribute to the member or members (could also include pledge members) most in need of financial help for tuition-related expenses.

No formal application is necessary to receive the grant from the Beta Foundation. However, chapter members are encouraged to submit applications to their chapter's selection committee. The chapter's selection committee (see the [Selection Guidance](#) resource for recommendations on building this team) will consider members applying and determine the one to five brothers most in need. After determining those members, they will complete the survey below to submit the award winners' names, address and contact information. (It is up to each chapter to decide the number of scholarships and scholarship amounts, but the minimum scholarship amount must be \$250 per person and the maximum is \$1,250. See the [Selection Guidance](#) resource for helpful tips to consider when trying to weigh greatest need.)

Am I eligible to receive a COVID-19 Relief Scholarship?

While every member in the chapter is technically eligible for a COVID-19 Relief Scholarship, the need-based scholarship is intended for those members that are at-risk and require financial support. To help determine if you are someone that may benefit from this relief, please submit an application to your chapter's selection committee (sample application may be found in the [Selection Guidance](#) resource).

For those that are not in immediate need or at-risk but have interest in additional financial support for the future, please consider applying for Beta Theta Pi Foundation's 88 tuition-based [Merit Scholarships](#) in the spring semester (see more below).

What does the timeline look like for the COVID-19 Relief Scholarship?

Award winners must be submitted by September 30, 2020 and a sample timeline is below:

September 7th	Chapter should designate a 3 – 5-person selection committee (must include one advisor or alumnus) to review applications and award scholarships
September 21st	Deadline for brothers in need to express interest and submit an application to the selection committee for review
September 28th	Selection committee finishes assessment and makes recommendations to the president for awarding
September 30th	President or other officer submits recipient(s) of the relief scholarship before this date to ensure aid arrives as soon as possible (deadline of roster adjustments)

How many people should we consider for the scholarship?

The intent of the scholarship is to identify the member(s) that are most in-need of financial aid. There is no minimum or maximum of members that may be considered. However, the \$1,250 grant per chapter may be awarded to one person in full (\$1,250) or to multiple members (minimum per member is \$250, so up to five recipients may be awarded \$250).

How does the scholarship check get to the winner(s)?

Once the chapter has completed the COVID-19 Relief Scholarship process, the chapter/colony must complete the [COVID-19 Relief Scholarship Recipient Information survey](#). This survey asks for recipient contact and mailing information as well as some information on the scholarship process – such as how many members were considered and what was considered during the selection process.

Note: It is critical that the chapter officer submitting the scholarship recipient(s) information confirm the mailing address so the check is correctly mailed to the brother(s) in need. The check will be mailed within two weeks and expires in 60 days.

We had more than two people who are clearly in financial need. What can we do to help them?

[Per the Code](#), (CHAPTER VIII STATUSES, Section 1, B., (b) 3.) a member of the fraternity may become temporarily inactive due to financial hardship, provided the number of members of any chapter/colony who may become temporarily inactive because of financial hardship during any academic term shall be limited to three per chapter/colony. This means that the chapter may place up to three members on TIA-Financial Hardship status, exempting them from paying dues or fees for the period of the inactive status (these members shall not participate in any other fraternity activities). The deadline to submit these roster changes is September 30, 2020.

Note: If the chapter has a large influx of members in-need and concerned about finances, it may wish to review its budget for the 2020-21 academic year to consider what costs may be cut while offering an experience that is dedicated to the fraternal bonds of Brotherhood, Personal Growth, and a strong sense of Home.

Can we select a recipient and place him on TIA-Financial status as well?

Yes. The chapter should be taking a vote each semester on who is granted TIA-Financial statuses. If the committee's recommendations to the president include awarding this to a member that could use the tuition aid and may need to further step back from the Fraternity experience while adjusting to the economic strife of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no problem. Ultimately, the aim of this scholarship is to help retain dedicated and worthy members of the Fraternity that may be in-need during these strange times.

Are there other scholarships that may benefit our chapter and its members?

Absolutely! Last year, the Beta Theta Pi Foundation awarded \$104,550 in 88 tuition-based [Merit Scholarships](#) to initiated Beta undergraduates or graduate students, with awards ranging from \$250 to \$2,250. Merit Scholarship applications are evaluated by a panel of independent judges. Applications are open February 1-April 15 and all applicants are notified of the results in July. While not immediate, we encourage you to direct your chapter members toward these merit-based scholarships.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students that are initiated members of Beta Theta Pi who will be enrolled as full-time students in the 2021-22 academic year are eligible to apply for Merit Scholarships this fiscal year. Previous Foundation Merit Scholarships recipients are not eligible.