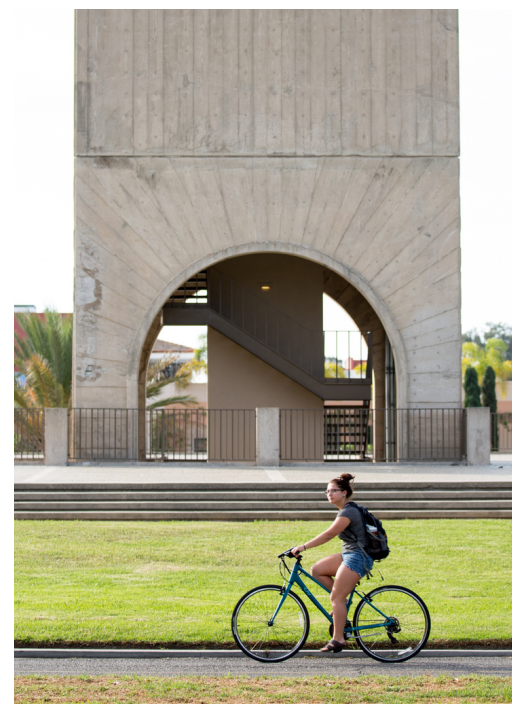


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# UCSB Financial Crisis Response Team

## Program Outline and FAQ

2022-2023



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# About

The UCSB Financial Crisis Response Team exists to assist students who are facing a financial crisis or urgent financial need. Our team assists undergraduate and graduate students who are facing significant financial difficulties that jeopardize their path to graduation through emergency funding and resource connection. We work closely to evaluate, respond, and support students in crisis in a streamlined and timely manner.

## Application Process

If you are experiencing a financial or housing crisis, email the Financial Crisis Response Team (FCRT) at [financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu) . If you are unsure if your situation falls into the parameters of the FCRT, contact us anyway, and we will happily connect you with the appropriate resources.

In your initial e-mail, please include your preferred name, PERM Number, best contact information, and any details of your situation that will help us develop a plan of action with you. The FCRT will attempt to respond to you within the next 1-2 business days. You will be asked to complete our online Crisis Application Form and, depending on the situation, may be asked to speak with a Basic Needs Advisor to discuss support options. An advisor will help guide you through the process.



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# Program Information

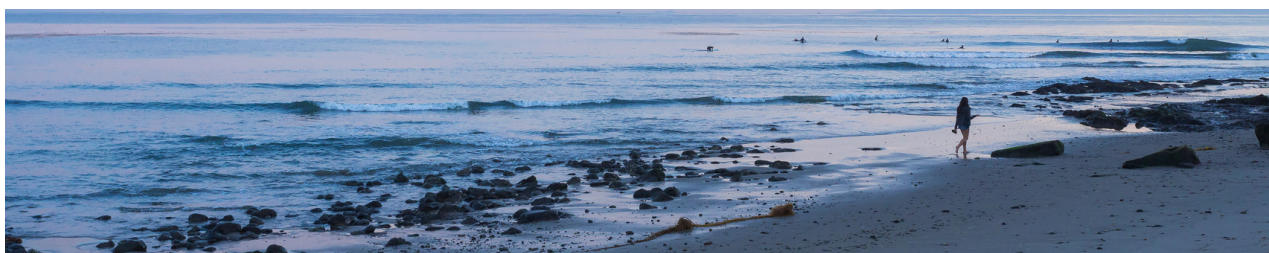
## Crisis Application

The Financial Crisis Response Team maintains strict confidentiality over student information in accordance with FERPA requirements. Student information will not be shared with any outside parties, including police, other UCSB departments, and family members, except in the following circumstances:

1. The student requests that information be shared with an outside party and signs a release form allowing the FCRT to do so.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the student is at risk of serious self-harm, at risk of harming another, or there is a serious risk to the safety of UCSB Community Members.
3. There is a legal obligation to disclose.
4. There is an obligation to disclose information under the UC Title IX Policy. More information about Title IX Policy can be found here: <https://titleix.ucsb.edu/policies-and-response-procedures/policies>

The Financial Crisis Response Team is not intended to be used as an ongoing resource. Students who experience continuous financial insecurity are strongly encouraged to meet with a financial aid officer in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (OFAS) to discuss financial packages and budgeting options.

To be eligible for assistance from the Financial Crisis Response Team, students must be enrolled in the current term at UCSB. Students who have withdrawn, are on leave, have completed their graduation requirements, or are otherwise not attending any units are currently not eligible for emergency funding. Students who are academically disqualified or dismissed are also currently ineligible, unless they are participating in the Scholar Retention Program. Students who are not currently enrolled can always access Social Work at Student Health to navigate finances, health challenges, and community resources.



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## Emergency Grant and Loan Program

The Emergency Grant and Loan Program assists students who are facing significant financial difficulties that jeopardize their path to graduation through emergency funding. Emergency grant and loan options are available to both undergraduate and graduate students, including international and non-residential students, so long as all other eligibility criteria are met.

### Emergency Grant and Loan Eligibility Requirements:

1. Students must be enrolled in at least half-time (6 units for Undergraduate Students and 4 units for Graduate Students)
2. To ensure that aid goes to those most in need first, students with a subsidized loan option are typically asked to access at least half of their subsidized loans before being considered for an Emergency Grant.

The amount of crisis funding administered is determined on a case by case basis. Several factors impact student support such as a student's current financial situation, their Expected Family Contribution, unmet need, and other available options. Therefore, two students who are in a similar crisis situation may receive slightly different amounts of crisis funding.

## Transitional Housing Program

Transitional housing is intended to provide a temporary living space for students without safe or stable housing while they arrange permanent living situations for themselves. Transitional housing is provided at no cost to students. The maximum length of stay is 25 days from the date of check-in.

To be eligible for the Transitional Housing Program, students must be enrolled in the current quarter at UCSB.

Students staying in transitional housing are required to abide by all Financial Crisis Response Team Emergency Housing Terms and Conditions. Students must return a signed Housing Agreement form prior to check-in. Failure to uphold emergency housing terms and conditions may result in removal from transitional housing.

Pets are not currently permitted in Transitional Housing, therefore, students with pets will need to make other arrangements for their animals during their stay. Service animals are not considered pets. Arrangements will be made for students with service animals.

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## Food Security Assistance

Food Security Assistance Programs support students who are facing either long or short-term food insecurity. Adequate nutrition is essential for students to be able to succeed in the classroom environment, therefore, the Financial Crisis Response Team provides a number of support options for students in need. Our team works with students to determine the most appropriate food resources based on the student's current needs.

Students who are interested in applying for CalFresh should meet with a CalFresh Advisor at the Student Needs Advising Center (SNAC). More information can be found at <https://food.ucsb.edu/calfresh>

For additional food support, students are encouraged to take advantage of the on-campus [AS Food Bank](#) and the [Miramar Food Pantry](#).

## Student Medical Emergency Relief Fund (SMERF)

The Jack Canfield [Student Medical Emergency Relief Fund \(SMERF\)](#) provides grants to students with expenses related to medical, dental, psychological, and optical emergencies. For the purpose of this fund, a medical emergency is a condition, injury, or illness that poses a risk to a person's life, long-term health, or well-being and requires timely intervention. Prescriptions or medical care costs related to on-going, non-emergency conditions are NOT covered.

Students are encouraged to complete a SMERF application to be considered for the Equity in Mental Health Assistance grant. The EMH fund at UCSB is specifically intended to address the financial barriers which prevent students from accessing mental health resources. If you would like to be considered for this fund source in particular, please indicate "Mental Health" on the SMERF application under Type of Emergency.

### SMERF Eligibility Requirements:

- Any registered student who has paid student registration fees are eligible to apply. Students who have graduated are eligible to apply for funding up to one quarter after their graduation date if they incurred a medical emergency during a quarter in which they were enrolled. A student has until the end of the quarter following the one in which the emergency occurred.
- Inability to pay existing and/or anticipated medical, dental, optical, or psychological expenses. The medical emergency must have occurred in a quarter in which you were enrolled.
- Ongoing financial insecurity due to recent emergency medical, dental, optical, or psychological expenses.

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## Technology Support Program

The Technology Support Program offers resources to students who need assistance with obtaining the necessary technology for academic success. Available resources include free Chromebooks, Wi-Fi and hotspot assistance grants, short-term loaner laptops, and grants for advanced technology needs.

Currently enrolled students can complete a single application form indicating their current technological needs and will be matched with the most appropriate technology resource. The application can be found on the Basic Needs website:

<https://food.ucsb.edu/resources/technology-resources>





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# Additional Resources

## Basic Needs Resources

For information about additional Basic Needs Resources on-campus and in the community, please see the UCSB Basic Needs Resource Guides. Demographic-specific student resource guides are also available to create a better transition-experience for undergraduate, transfer, graduate, and undocumented students here at UCSB.

[UCSB Basic Needs Resource Guide](#)



## Financial Literacy Resources

For more information about filling out the FAFSA, Appeals, and Loan Acceptance, speak to a Financial Aid Advisor in the [Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#).

If you are interested in learning more about budgeting for university, see the [UCSB Online Financial Wellness Modules](#)



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# FAQ

## Q: When should I refer someone to the Financial Crisis Response Team?

A: If you know a student who is facing an immediate financial, housing, or food related crisis, please refer them to the Financial Crisis Response Team. If you are unsure if the FCRT is the right resource to send a student to, refer them to us anyway, and we can connect them with the best supports.

## Q: How can I refer someone to the Financial Crisis Response Team?

A: To refer a student, have them email [financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu). In the initial e-mail, please have them include their preferred name, PERM Number, and any details of the situation that will help us develop a plan of action. If you want to refer a student anonymously, simply email [financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu) with the student's name and contact info, and we will outreach to them.

## Q: How is the amount of awarded funding determined?

A: The amount of crisis funding administered is determined on a case by case basis. Several factors impact student support such as a student's current financial situation, their Expected Family Contribution, unmet need, and other available options.

## Q: Do I have to pay back crisis funding?

A: Emergency Housing Grants and Basic Needs Grants do not need to be repaid to the Financial Crisis Response Team. Institutional and Short-Term Loans do, however, need to be repaid to the university.

## Q: How long does it take to receive crisis funding?

A: Funding allocated from the Financial Crisis Response Team is administered through BARC. Students who have signed up for direct deposit with BARC should expect to receive funds within 3-5 business days.

## Q: Do I have to pay for Emergency Transitional Housing?

A: There is no cost to students for Transitional Housing stays.

## Q: Are pets allowed in Transitional Housing?

A: Pets are not currently permitted in Transitional Housing, therefore, students with pets will need to make other arrangements for their animals during their stay. Service animals are not considered pets and are permitted in transitional housing.

## Q: Is there storage space provided for Transitional Housing stays?

A: There is currently no provided storage space for students staying in transitional housing, however, the Financial Crisis Response Team may be able to assist students in need of furniture storage.

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# Contact Us

If you have questions about anything in this document or you are experiencing a financial or housing crisis, email the Financial Crisis Response Team (FCRT) at [financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu)

