

## CARES ACT REPORTING ON EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS TO STUDENTS

On March 27, 2020, the Federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub L. No. 116-136, providing funds to institutions from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to make Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The law requires institutions to report certain information related to the use of these funds. The following information is reported for the period, June 27, 2020 to July 6, 2020.

- I. This statement shall serve to acknowledge that our institution signed and returned to the US Department of Education the *Certification and Agreement - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students*. We further attest that our institution has used, and/or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
- II. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Student is \$46,400.
- III. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of July 6, 2020 is \$46,400
- IV. The estimated total number of students at our institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 50.
- V. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to date, July 6, 2020, is 52.
- VI. The following is the method used by our institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much each student has received/will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Funds were distributed to students who have submitted applications. The amount was based on financial need demonstrated on application and in the financial aid application submitted upon entry to the program. Recipients of PELL, other agency subsidized funding and those completing a FAFSA, demonstrating financial need were prioritized.

- VII. The following instructions were provided by our institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Each enrolled student was sent an application to complete with a deadline of May 7, 2020. Included was information pertaining to the legislation and contact information for any questions. Return information was included in correspondence. Additionally, there has been outreach to students who have not submitted applications. Program coordinator has reinforced the correspondence during meeting times with students. Follow up messages were sent to applicants on May 19, 2020 after a review of received applications to alert them that their applications were received and were being reviewed. SWBOCES staff contacted students for further information where necessary. Students were informed on May 19, 2020 that a message will be sent when dispersals are prepared. Student applicants were notified on June 3, 2020 that dispersals would be made via check and sent to their home address on file no later than the end of June 2020.

Update 9/30/21

The total amount of funds received by SW BOCES from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is \$244,910 (HEERF I, II, III).

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of September 30, 2021 is \$244,910 (HEERF I, II, III).

SW BOCES conducted direct outreach via email to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student, or other circumstances, described in Section 479A of the HEA.