

CARES Act Reporting

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Governors State University submits 45-day Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund report to Department of Education Secretary.

The Department of Education directs each institution receiving Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to comply with Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and submit an initial report to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter. The University received its allocation on May 3, 2020 and this report is being made as of August 30, 2020.

Each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution's primary website. Accordingly, the University is providing this information to the GSU community in compliance with this directive:

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, 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.

Governors State University acknowledges the institution signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for the Student Portion of funds on April 15, 2020. The university signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for the Institutional Portion of funds on April 21, 2020.

The University 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.

2. 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 Students.

The University has received \$1,851,301 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. All amounts will be used to make Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The

University draws down the funds from the Department of Education's G5 system based on actual disbursements made to students.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

As of August 20, 2020, the University has awarded \$1,100,000 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

4. The estimated total number of students at the 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.

As of May 29, 2020, the estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the Spring 2020 academic term (as evidenced by a completed FAFSA on file with the University) and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 2,905.

As of July 15, 2020, the estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the Summer 2020 academic term (as evidenced by a completed FAFSA on file with the University) and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 802.

As of August 25, 2020, the estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the Summer 2020 academic term (as evidenced by a completed FAFSA on file with the University) and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 802.

Pursuant to Department of Education guidelines, students who were enrolled exclusively in online courses on March 13, 2020 are not eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The approximate number of students enrolled in exclusively online courses included in the estimated total number of students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the Spring 2020 academic term (as evidenced by a completed FAFSA on file with the university) is 145.

The approximate number of students enrolled in exclusively online courses included in the estimated total number of students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the Summer 2020 academic term (as evidenced by a completed FAFSA on file with the university) is 102.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

As of August 20, 2020, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) is **1,166**.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

To ensure the University distributes Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students who incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child-care expenses, the University developed an application process through which students could apply for such funding. On this grant application, students are asked to provide information about their financial need because of the coronavirus. The University determined that an application process was better to ensure that students with need resulting from the coronavirus would receive financial support to the greatest extent possible.

A University committee was formed to review submitted applications to first determine if the student met the eligibility for aid under the CARES act criteria (i.e. Title IV eligible, not a fully online student, etc.) and incurred expenses because of the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student met all these criteria, they receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant for up to \$1,000 for the term in which he/she applied for the grant. Each student has one opportunity to apply for support to ensure that the maximum number of students may be helped. Students that applied for support for unallowable expenses are rejected and allowed to reapply if they experience allowable expenses under the CARES act. Rejected students receive an email indicating a reason for rejection and instructions for reapplying, if applicable. Students receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grants by either paper check or ACH. As funding permits, the University will continue to make the funds available to new applicants in the upcoming summer, fall and spring terms.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

The University posted a general announcement regarding Emergency Financial Aid Grants on the COVID-19 section of its website on May 1, 2020. A link to this announcement can be found at www.govst.edu/gsu4u. Students were also made aware of these funds and the application process through various methods, including direct e-mails, references to such in e-mail correspondences, and in communications by student counselors, advisors, and coaches.

An email is sent to all students who receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant. The text of this email is included in this report. Grant recipients are provided notification that the grant was funded by the CARES Act as well as the requirement of the student to use the funds on expenses related to the disruption of the University campus operations due to the coronavirus. The notice to the students also indicated that by accepting these funds, they agree to spend the monies for the purposes indicated on their application.