

CARES Act Reporting

PI: Elizabeth Cada

Award # P425E201852

May 29, 2020

Governors State University submits 30-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 May 29, 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 May 29, 2020, the University has awarded \$777,800 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.

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.

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 May 29, 2020, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) is 827.

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. 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.

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc: [College of Arts and Science Students](#); [College Of Business Students](#); [College of Education Students](#); [College of Hlth and Hmn Svcs Students](#); [UNDE-NDSK Students](#); [Faculty and Staff](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Students
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:34:10 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
Importance: High

Governors State University

Office of the Dean of Students

When the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law, it made \$6 billion in emergency grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund available to college and university students around the country. Of that amount, **approximately \$1.85 million will be allocated directly to Governors State University students** through the CARES Student Emergency Fund.

The **CARES Student Emergency Fund** provides limited emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as technology resources, course materials, healthcare, childcare, food, and housing. Grants should not be used to pay tuition and/or fees. To apply, please complete this [online application](#).

Eligibility: Students must have been enrolled in a degree seeking program during the Spring 2020 semester and completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Much to our dismay, institutions cannot award CARES Act funds to undocumented students, students who were enrolled in entirely online programs before March 13, international students, DACA students, and students that have not filed a FAFSA.

We understand that these students are often the most in need. As such, **GSU has the following other emergency grant programs available** for students that do not qualify for the CARES Student Emergency Fund:

- **COVID-19 Student Assistance Fund** - provides limited financial support for students experiencing a coronavirus-related financial hardship to cover

personal expenses such as out-of-pocket medical bills, technology resources, and other living expenses or basic needs. Funds are awarded once and do not need to be repaid. All currently enrolled students, including those who have not previously received financial aid, are eligible to apply. To apply, submit an [online application](#) and upload documentation to support your request. To access the application, you will need to log in using your GSU username and password.

- **GSU Student Emergency Fund** - provides limited emergency financial support to currently enrolled Governors State University students who are unable to meet essential **educational expenses**, including tuition and fees, due to a temporary or unexpected hardship. To apply, submit an [online application](#) and upload documentation to support your request. To access the application, you will need to log in using your GSU username and password.

For more information about the COVID-19 Student Assistance Fund and the GSU Student Emergency Fund and other resources available to assist students during this time, visit the [GSU4U website](#). Please check back regularly, as new resources are added frequently.

In addition, **we encourage you to seek emotional support during these uncertain and stressful times**. GSU's Counseling and Wellness Center continues to offer services remotely by phone and video conference, Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please call 708-235-7334 to schedule an appointment.

Questions? Contact the Office of the Dean of Students at
deanofstudents@govst.edu



Governors State University
1 University Parkway
University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
708.534.8951

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund Request Decision
Date: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:40:13 AM

The committee has reviewed your request for CARES Student Emergency Funds for the Spring 2020 semester. On behalf of the committee, I regret to inform you that your request has been denied because you are not eligible under Title IV federal requirements. For additional information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at faid@govst.edu.

I encourage you to review the [GSU4U website](#) for information about various community resources addressing food and housing insecurities, as well as technology and other resources. Please visit the website for more information and check back regularly as new resources are added frequently.

Sincerely,

Corey M. Williams

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, &
Interim Chief Diversity Officer
Governors State University
1 University Parkway | C1310
University Park, IL 60484
708.235.7595 | deanofstudents@govst.edu
Pronouns: he, him, his

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund Request Decision
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:58:39 PM

The committee has reviewed your request for CARES Student Emergency Funds for the Spring 2020 semester. On behalf of the committee, I regret to inform you that your request has been denied because your request was either for unallowable expenses or you failed to provide information that demonstrated the need for assistance was due to the disruption of campus operations by COVID-19.

If you are enrolled in courses for the Summer 2020 semester and need assistance with an allowable expense (i.e., housing, food, course materials, healthcare, and technology resources), you can reapply using [this online application](#).

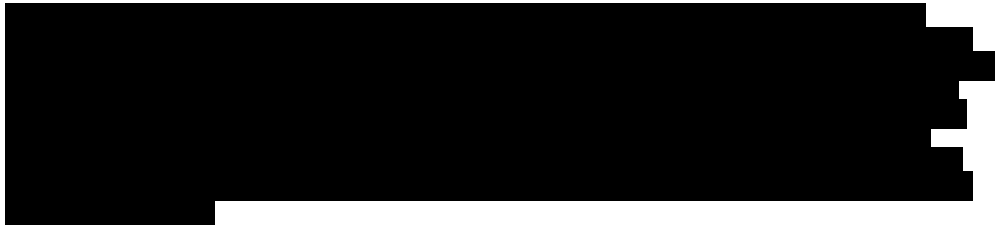
Additionally, I encourage you to review the [GSU4U website](#) for information about various community resources addressing food and housing insecurities, as well as technology and other resources. Please visit the website for more information and check back regularly as new resources are added frequently.

Sincerely,

Corey M. Williams

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, &
Interim Chief Diversity Officer
Governors State University
1 University Parkway | C1310
University Park, IL 60484
708.235.7595 | deanofstudents@govst.edu
Pronouns: he, him, his

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund Request Decision
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:23:45 PM

The committee has reviewed your request for CARES Student Emergency Funds for the Spring 2020 semester. On behalf of the committee, I regret to inform you that your request has been denied because you were either not enrolled during the semester in which you applied for funding or you were enrolled in entirely online classes prior to March 13, 2020.

I encourage you to review the [GSU4U website](#) for information about various community resources addressing food and housing insecurities, as well as technology and other resources. Please visit the website for more information and check back regularly as new resources are added frequently.

Sincerely,

Corey M. Williams

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, &
Interim Chief Diversity Officer
Governors State University
1 University Parkway | C1310
University Park, IL 60484
708.235.7595 | deanofstudents@govst.edu
Pronouns: he, him, his

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: Update on your request for COVID-19 Student Assistance Funds
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 10:54:55 AM

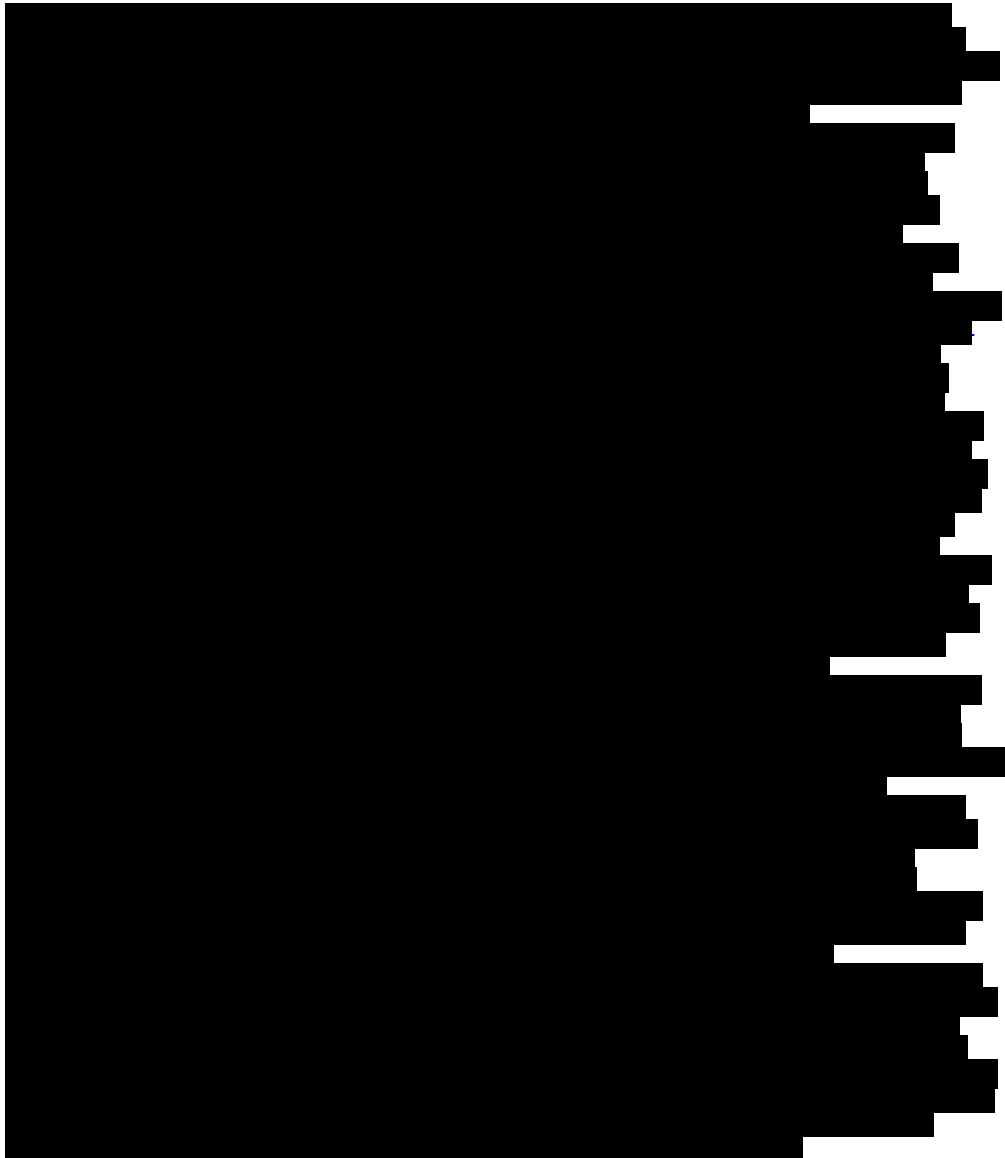
Thank you for your request for COVID-19 Student Assistance Funds. The COVID-19 Student Assistance Fund provides limited financial support for students experiencing a coronavirus-related financial hardship to cover **personal expenses** such as out-of-pocket medical bills, technology resources, and other living expenses or basic needs. Funds are awarded once and do not need to be repaid. All currently enrolled students, including those who have not previously received financial aid, are eligible to apply. **Our staff is working as quickly as possible to review requests and you will receive an e-mail with an official decision at a later date and time. Thank you in advance for your patience.** Please note, due to the volume of requests, we will not be able to assist every student. In the event more funds become available, your request will remain on file and will be reviewed in the order in which it was received.

If you have not already done so, please consider applying for the CARES Student Emergency Fund. The **CARES Student Emergency Fund** provides limited emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as technology resources, course materials, healthcare, childcare, food, and housing. Grants should not be used to pay tuition and/or fees. To apply, please complete this [online application](#).

Eligibility: Students must have been enrolled in a degree seeking program during the Spring 2020

semester and completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year. Unfortunately, institutions cannot award CARES Act funds to undocumented students, students who were enrolled in entirely online programs before March 13, international students, DACA students, and students that have not filed a FAFSA.

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund - Apply Today!
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 9:48:13 AM
Importance: High

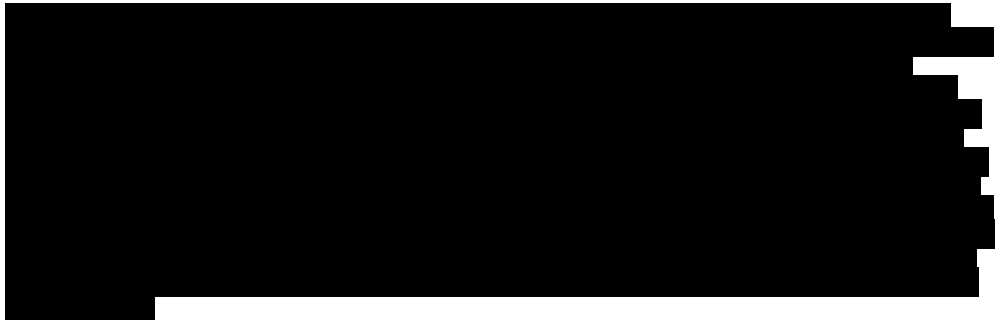
We noticed that you applied for the COVID-19 Student Assistance Fund but not the CARES Student Emergency Fund. The COVID-19 Student Assistance Fund is meant to supplement the CARES Student Emergency Fund since GSU cannot award CARES Act funds to undocumented / DACA students, students who were enrolled in entirely online programs before March 13, international students, and students that have not filed a FAFSA for the 19-20 academic year.

If you were enrolled in a degree seeking program during the Spring 2020 semester and completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, **you are strongly encouraged to apply for the CARES Student Emergency Fund**. The CARES Student Emergency Fund provides limited emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as technology resources, course materials, healthcare, childcare, food, and housing. Grants should not

be used to pay tuition and/or fees. To apply, please complete this [online application](#).

Applications for all funds will be reviewed as quickly as possible. Due to the volume of requests, please allow 10-15 business days from the date that you applied.

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund - Apply Today!
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:00:22 PM
Importance: High

We noticed that you may not have applied for the CARES Student Emergency Fund. If you were enrolled in a degree seeking program during the Spring 2020 semester and completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, **you are strongly encouraged to apply for the CARES Student Emergency Fund**. The CARES Student Emergency Fund provides limited emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as technology resources, course materials, healthcare, childcare, food, and housing. Grants should not be used to pay tuition and/or fees. To apply, please complete this [online application](#).

Applications for will be reviewed as quickly as possible. Due to the volume of requests, please allow 10-15 business days from the date that you applied.

Unfortunately, GSU cannot award CARES Act funds to undocumented / DACA students, students who were enrolled in entirely online programs before March 13, international students, and students that have not filed a FAFSA. If you fall into one of these categories, please reply to this e-mail for further guidance.

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



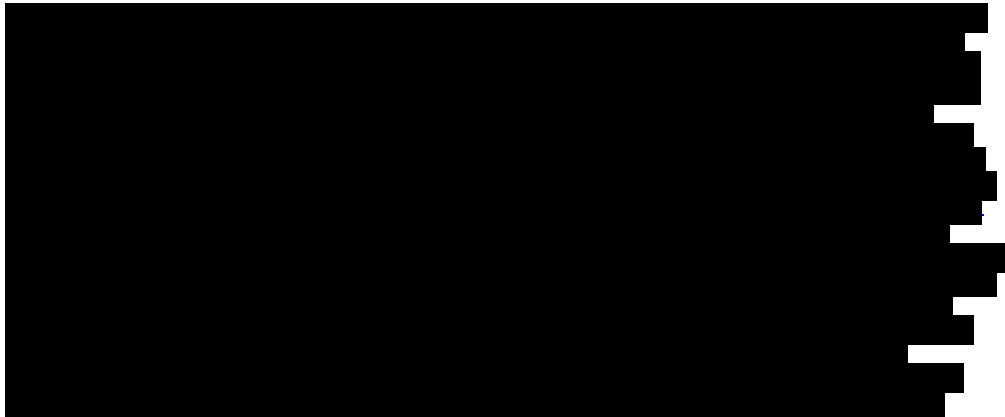
Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund - Apply Today!
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 12:51:27 PM
Importance: High

We noticed that you may not have applied for the CARES Student Emergency Fund. If you were enrolled in a degree seeking program during the Spring 2020 semester and completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, **you are strongly encouraged to apply for the CARES Student Emergency Fund**. The CARES Student Emergency Fund provides limited emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as technology resources, course materials, healthcare, childcare, food, and housing. To apply, please complete this [online application](#). If you are unable to submit an application, this means that you have already done so and it is pending in our system.

Applications for will be reviewed as quickly as possible. Due to the volume of requests, please allow 10-15 business days from the date that you applied.

Unfortunately, GSU cannot award CARES Act funds to undocumented / DACA students, students who were enrolled in entirely online programs before March 13, international students, and students that have not filed a FAFSA. If you fall into one of these categories, please reply to this e-mail for further guidance.

From: [Dean of Students](#)
To: [Dean of Students](#)
Bcc:



Subject: CARES Student Emergency Fund - Apply Today!
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 9:48:42 AM
Importance: High

We noticed that you applied for the GSU Student Emergency Fund but not the CARES Student Emergency Fund. The GSU Student Emergency Fund is for students who have an outstanding balance for tuition/fees and who have exhausted all of their eligible financial aid, including loans. Awards are applied directly to the student's account.

If you were enrolled in a degree seeking program during the Spring 2020 semester and completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, **you are strongly encouraged to apply for the CARES Student Emergency Fund**. The CARES Student Emergency Fund provides limited emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as technology resources, course materials, healthcare, childcare, food, and housing. Grants should not be used to pay tuition and/or fees. To apply, please complete this [online application](#).

Applications for all funds will be reviewed as quickly as possible. Due to the volume of requests, please allow 10-15 business days from the date that you applied.