

Western Nebraska Community College's Report on funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students (*updated July 6, 2020*)

Western Nebraska Community College is required to provide regular reports to the U.S. Department of Education on the use of allocated funds authorized by the CARES Act and distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Funds received by Western Nebraska Community College under the CARES Act were authorized by Congress and signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020. The information noted below is intended to not only meet the reporting requirements of the CARES Act but also provide information to the college community regarding WNCC's use of the student grant portion of the HEERF.

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act" or the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the HEERF. Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide 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, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare). On April 9, 2020, the Department of Education published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a [letter](#) from Secretary Betsy DeVos, a form [Certification and Agreement](#) for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of [institutional allocations under 18004\(a\)\(1\)](#).

The Certification and Agreement directs each institution applying for HEERF funds to comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and submit an initial report (the "30-day Fund Report") to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution's Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education. Each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution's primary website.

The following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter:

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.*
 - Western Nebraska Community College signed the U.S. Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 20, 2020. The certification and agreement document was submitted April 29, 2020. The U.S. Department of Education provided WNCC with an electronically signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) on May 5, 2020.
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.*
 - Western Nebraska Community College received \$402,849 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants 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).*
 - \$333,100 was distributed to WNCC students as of July 6, 2020.
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 (and considered eligible per subsequent guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education).*
 - There were 507 Title IV Eligible WNCC students as of July 6, 2020.
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.*
 - 507 Title IV eligible students were disbursed Emergency Financial Aid Grants as of July 6, 2020.
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.*

- Western Nebraska Community College identified all students enrolled for spring 2020 that had a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFS) on file with the college and who met all eligibility requirements for Title IV Financial Aid under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness validated enrollment statuses and the Financial Aid Office confirmed federal aid eligibility prior to disbursement of emergency funds as outlined in the CARES Act and additional guidance from the Department of Education. Students enrolled exclusively online prior to March 13, 2020, were not eligible to receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grant.
- Students who were Pell grant eligible and enrolled full-time received \$800. Award amounts were then prorated based on enrollment level with no student receiving less than \$250. The Financial Aid Office obtained the eligible students' corresponding Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) created by the FAFSA. The data was stratified by EFC and by enrollment level. The chart below shows the EFC and enrollment strata summary, the CARES grant award amount for each strata to cover expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare associated with the disruption of on-campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview of the distribution of CARES HEERF student grants as of July 6, 2020:

EFC/Enrollment	*Eligible Students	CARES Amount	*Total CARES Grant	*% of Total Disbursed
0-5576 EFC/12+ credits		\$800		
0-5576 EFC/9-11 credits		\$600		
0-5576 EFC/6-8 credits		\$400		
0-5576 EFC/<6 credits		\$250		
5577-15000 EFC/12+ credits		\$700		
5577-15000 EFC/9-11 credits		\$525		
5577-15000 EFC/6-8 credits		\$350		
5577-15000 EFC/<6 credits		\$250		
15000+ EFC/12+ credits		\$500		
15000+ EFC/9-11 credits		\$375		
15000+ EFC/6-8 credits		\$250		
15000+ EFC/<6 credits		\$250		
Totals	507		\$333,100	100.00%

*Detail for each cohort not provided per Federal Student Aid Electronic Announcement dated May 6, 2020, Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting-Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, which advises against reporting about groups of 10 or fewer students.

- As of July 6, 2020, \$69,749 of CARES HEERF remains to be distributed to students. Students will be provided funding either through block grants to groups of eligible students determined to incur qualifying expenses, students subsequently determined to be eligible, or through a CARES Act application made available to students.

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

- [Communication to students](#) who received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
- [Public notice](#) posted to website and to social media
- [CARES Act/COVID 19 Financial Aid Information](#)
- [Email communication to Title IV eligible students regarding CARES Act emergency grant application](#)