

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (CARES ACT)

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 Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“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 child care). On April 9, 2020, the Department 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. Follow up reports are to occur every 45 days thereafter. Current instructions only dictate posting certain information to the institution’s website. Accordingly, Networks Barber College is submitting the following information for public review:

1. Networks Barber College acknowledges 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.
2. Pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, Networks Barber College was allocated a total amount of \$68,362.
3. Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission, the total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students is \$68,362.
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 was 33.
5. The total number of students who received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act was 33.
6. The method 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 was based primarily on the remaining hours of active Title IV students during the TDE timeframe. Students who returned from an LOA were later included. Disbursements are partitioned into 150 clock hour blocks, with a student eligible to receive up to five payments depending on their individual remaining hours to graduate. The five periods added up to then allowed 50% (750 hours) for Covid-19 Temporary Distance Education. In addition to an hours based allowance, students who participated in TDE were given an allowance in the first disbursement to cover laptop and internet expenses. During TDE, students were required to meet an online SAP participation of at least 67% to receive each disbursement. The requirement moved to the school's minimum of 80% upon returning to the building. All funds were exhausted upon all 150 hour blocks being successfully completed.
7. Students were required to sign an acknowledgment upon receipt of each payment that the Emergency Financial Aid Grant was intended to be used 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 child care).