

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - Student Emergency Financial Aid Grants: 45-day Report as of October 5, 2020

Western New England University signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and we are providing assurance that we will be using 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.

The total amount of funds that Western New England University has received from the Department of Education thus far is \$1,341,713 and will receive an additional \$589 for a total of \$1,342,302 pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

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 for our 45-day Report is \$1,341,713.

The estimated total number of students at Western New England University that are 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 2511.

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 October 5, 2020 is 992.

The method used to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is an application request process. Students who had unanticipated costs related to the disruption of campus as a result of COVID-19 and were current students in the spring 2020 semester can apply by emailing their application to WNECARES@wne.edu. All applications are reviewed and awarded to ensure compliance with the CARES Act. There are no minimums or maximum awards.

The following is what we informed our students which is posted on the University's COVID-19 web page and was emailed to all students:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in March, provides for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses. Western New England University's portion of the CARES Act for student emergency grant aid is \$1,342,302.

We recognize that many of our students have incurred expenses because of the pandemic. Our goal is to get this money into the hands of our students as quickly as possible to help alleviate financial stress brought about by the pandemic.

The University will award the student emergency relief grant aid using an application request process. Students eligible for these funds must be an enrolled student in the spring 2020 semester; students enrolled in an exclusively on-line only program (LLM or MFA) before March 13 are not eligible for these grants. We urge students to apply for these funds if they have incurred any eligible expenses. You may find the COVID-19 Emergency Grant Request application and related instructions <https://www1.wne.edu/coronavirus/cares-act.cfm>. To qualify for CARES Act HEERF student grant aid, students must be eligible for federal aid. To ensure eligibility students should have a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file, if not please file the 2020-21 FAFSA at studentaid.gov.

Applications received by Friday, May 15 will receive priority consideration with award decisions made by Friday, May 22. Notification will be sent to the student's WNE email. Checks will be mailed to students awarded grants the following week starting Tuesday, May 26. Applications received after May 15 will be considered as funds remain available.

An email was sent on June 10, 2020 to 493 active 2020 spring semester students' WNE email with a FAFSA on file, who have not already applied, informing them that CARES Act monies will be awarded until exhausted. Grants are being awarded on a rolling basis. Notifications are sent to student's WNE email. Checks are being disbursed and mailed within days of awarding.