Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

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. The Department will provide instructions for providing the required information to the Secretary in the near future. In the meantime, each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution’s primary website. The Department would like to receive the most current information from the date when the institution received its allocation for emergency financial aid grants to students, and the institution should have received its allocation within a few days after submitting the Certification and Agreement. Accordingly, 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.

- The University of New Haven (University) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement to receive funding under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES ACT”). No less than 50% of the funds received under this code section will be used 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 been allocated $2,321,398 pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement 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).
   - As of August 15, 2020, the total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) is $2,235,950. The remaining balance of $85,448 is being used to assist students whose families experienced a serious healthcare emergency related to COVID-19.

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.
   - Approximately 4,300 University students are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

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 15, 2020, 2,033 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

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.
   - The University calculated the awards to Title IV eligible students based on the following criteria: Must be enrolled and degree seeking for the spring 2020 term; Must have submitted and the University received an official 2019-2020 FAFSA as of May 1, 2020; Must not be enrolled exclusively in an online program; Must meet Title IV Federal Financial Aid eligibility requirements as determined by the U.S. Department of Education; Must be maintaining the minimum requirements of Satisfactory Academic Progress; Must have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as defined in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) between $0 to $9,999. Based on these criteria, undergraduate students are to be awarded amounts ranging from $500 to $1,750. Fulltime, Title IV-eligible graduate students are to be awarded $400. The grants are to be transferred via direct deposit to a student’s bank account or via check when banking information is not available.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
Students are to be apprised of the University’s plans to distribute the Emergency Financial Aid Grants via email and the University's COVID information website - https://www.newhaven.edu/coronavirus-info.php. Students are not required to apply for these grants.