

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - Student Aid 45-Day Report

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”).

The following information must be made available to the public 30 days after the initial date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter.

1. On April 10, 2020 Lamar University executed a certification and agreement with the Department of Education assuring that 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. Lamar University’s grant award notice from the Department of Education for award number P425E200485 was signed on 4/22/2020 and lists a budget period and funding period of 04/21/2020 – 04/21/2021.

2. The amount of funds awarded to Lamar for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is **\$3,524,387.00**.

3. As of 8/20/2020 the total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act distributed (disbursed) to students was **\$ 2,885,177.62**

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 is **4,766**

5. As of 7/6/2020 the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act was **2,423**

6. Currently enrolled full-time and part-time students (including graduate students) can apply to the university for funding to offset expenses incurred related to the disruption from the coronavirus (COVID-19). To be eligible for the higher education emergency relief funding, students must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (i.e., eligible to receive federal Title IV aid).
- Be currently enrolled in a face to face degree-seeking or certificate program for Spring 2020 (i.e., online-only students are not eligible).
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.
- Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe an overpayment on any federal grant.
- Have a high school diploma or GED.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Be registered with Selective Service (if required).
- Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale

*Actual eligibility will be based on the above requirements and answers to the supplemental questions. The award amount will depend on the number of applicants and the availability of funds.

Students will be awarded a maximum amount based on their EFC as follows:

EFC Range	Max award amount
0 EFC <i>Full Pell eligibility</i>	\$1,500
0-\$5,576 <i>Pell eligible</i>	\$1,250
\$5,577 and above <i>EFC above Pell eligibility</i>	\$1,000
Without EFC	\$1,000

These maximum amounts may be amended for extenuating need based on student documentation. A total maximum of \$6195 for need rank 1-7, as approved on an individual basis and based on documentation.

Emergency Aid Component	CARE Grant	Need Rank
Food	\$500	1
Housing (rent, mortgage, moving expense)	\$500	2
Technology/Supplies	\$400	3
Other/Personal Expenses (bills)*	Up to \$1000	4
Tuition Assistance	Up to \$1000	5
Medical *	Up to \$6195	6
Child or Dependent Care *	Up to \$5000	7

*Documentation required to be included with the COVID-19 Emergency Aid Application

To qualify for this emergency grant, students must be Title IV eligible and have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. To be considered, students must have a 2019-2020 FAFSA online. Students who are not eligible to file a FAFSA will be considered for funding through the Cardinal Emergency Fund.

The COVID-19 Emergency Aid Application opened on May 1st and will remain open until funding is exhausted. Awards will be determined on a first come/first served basis. A COVID-19 Emergency Aid Application will be required to assess the student's immediate financial needs. The online form will also be used to determine awards for Cardinal Emergency Funds and available FSEOG funds.

7. Instructions, directions and guidance concerning Emergency Financial Aid Grants can be found at : <https://www.lamar.edu/financial-aid/resources/covid-19-emergency-aid-application.html> The department of Scholarships and Financial Aid reached out to all qualified students via email on 5/4/20 to inform them that the application was open. Additional notice of the application came via campus announcement made on 5/4/20 follows:

COVID-19 Emergency Aid Application Now Available

Emergency grants are available to assist students who were impacted by COVID-19 and need financial assistance. These one-time grants will be made available on a first come, first served basis, dependent on funding.

This [application](#) supports consideration for two funding sources: The Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Cardinal Emergency Fund.

In addition to existing resources, Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act which provides Lamar University with an additional \$3.5 million in grant aid to assist students (undergraduate and graduate) who have financial impact from this pandemic. Per updated guidance from the Department of Education, you must have a 2019-2020 FAFSA on file for consideration of CARES Act Funds. Those who do not meet qualifications for CARES Act funds will be considered for other university funds, depending on availability.

Due to volume, applications will be reviewed in 7-10 business days once final guidance has been received from the Department of Education.

Get more information and apply for the grant at <http://www.lamar.edu/covid19application>.