

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Fund Reporting

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

This report provides details on the first award Western Illinois University received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E200622.

CERTIFICATION

Western Illinois University signed and returned to the US Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 13, 2020. On April 28, 2020 WIU received notification of grant funding from the Department of Education. WIU will use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Western Illinois University will receive a total of \$7,997,093 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF. At least \$3,998,547 will be distributed directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the Coronavirus.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

As of December 31, 2020, WIU has awarded \$3,931,218.00 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Western Illinois University had an estimated 16,140 students eligible for distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY (FALL 2020)

Emergency aid is given out in the form of a grant and need not be repaid. These emergency funds are administered as one-

- 1) A US Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- 2) Be enrolled for the term in which funds are being requested.
- 3) Admitted into a degree program.
- 4) Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress
(wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/appeal/index.php)

Students will be identified for emergency grants based on two factors: Pell eligibility and receipt of book award(s) during the 2019-20 AY.

- Returning students: Students who were awarded a Freshmen Book Award (807.04) will receive a CARES grant in the amount of \$600 Fall 2020.
- New transfer students: Using the criteria of the Leatherneck Book Award new transfer students will receive a CARES grant in the amount of \$600 Fall 2020.

Remaining funds will be awarded based on receipt of a Parent/Student income appeal. The amount will be determined by the Committee on Professional Judgment (CPJ) for no more than the maximum 20-21 PELL Grant.

INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS

Instructions, directions, guidance and the application provided to students regarding the [Emergency Financial Aid Grants](#):

8/12/2020 Website

(http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/special_programs/emergencyAidApplication.php) updated to reflect parameters of Fall 2020 awarding criteria for CARES funds.

6/15/2020 Email to all enrolled students Summer 2020 (2,535): see text under methods to determine student's eligibility.

[Emergency Aid Application](#)

[WIU Student Emergency Fund Established; Financial Aid Special Circumstances Appeal Available: April 14, 2020](#)

[Purple & Gold Day of Caring Set for April 24](#)

[WIU Student Emergency Fund Established; Financial Aid Special Circumstances Appeal Available: May 1, 2020](#)

Notification to students applying for emergency aid:

Thank you for your application for a Western Illinois University Emergency Grant. These emergency funds are being made available to assist students in the disruption of educational pursuits as the result of COVID-19.

The committee is hard at work evaluating eligibility and availability of funds. Students will receive communication through their University email. We hope to begin making awards within the next 10 days. In the meantime, please stay safe and be well.

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Notification to students not eligible for emergency aid:

Western Illinois University has reviewed your request for emergency aid. To be eligible for