

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Report (HEERF II)

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

03/11/2021 American Medical Sciences Center College (OPE ID: 04159700) received Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) under Section 18004(a)(4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act ("CRRSAA), Public Law No: 116-260. This Fund Report applies to the student portion received under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that is designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

The institution appreciates that Congress and the President having made these critical funds available for eligible students to be used only as financial aid grants. We take receipt of these federal funds seriously and are distributing them in accordance with the CARES Act and implementing guidance.

The institution is making the below information available for transparency purposes and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's ("Department") Electronic Announcement of May 6, 2020.

For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Haik Antonyan, Associate Director, at haik@amsc.edu

- (1) AMSC College has signed and returned the Certification and Agreement assuring that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
- (2) The total amount of funds that AMSC has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs was **\$90.602**.
- (3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter) was **\$90.602**
- (4) The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs was **70**.
- (5) The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs was **70**.
- (6) We had used the methodology proposed by the U.S. Department of Education in its directive of Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 314(a)(1) and (a)(4) programs of CRRSAA to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive. **Attachment A**.
- (7) Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants Provided at **Attachment B**.

Attachment A

Guide for the Distribution of Student Grants under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

On April 9, 2020, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”) was making immediately available to postsecondary institutions more than \$6.2 billion in emergency grants for students impacted by Coronavirus and authorized in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”).² The approximately \$6.2 billion accounts for the portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (Sec. 18004) that must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants directly to students. The institutional share of funds is not yet available.

This first allocation of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund must be used exclusively for student emergency financial aid grants. Secretary DeVos makes clear in her letter to college and university leaders that, “We (the Department) are prioritizing this funding stream in order to get money in the hands of students in need as quickly as possible.”

Student Eligibility:

Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, the CRRSAA explicitly provides that financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.

The cohort of eligible students includes those in attendance from March 2021-May 2021. These dates encompass the COVID19 period as defined both by the Governor’s proclamation of closure as well as effective date USDE announcement of emergency grants through the disbursement period. Students must sign an acknowledgement that they have been affected by COVID and use of the funds will be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of the campus operations due to the coronavirus. These include eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.

Methodology of grant amount:

Grant amounts were determined based on the “Minimum Allocation to be Awarded for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students” divided by the eligible cohort of students per OPEID. Students shall be responsible for certifying that they have been affected by COVID-19 and demonstrate Title IV eligibility (<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>).

Disbursement of Funds:

Living in a state that has “stay-at-home orders”, we are mindful to the safety and health of our staff and students. In order to aid with the distribution of the funds, we will be utilizing checks as the primary method of delivery. Checks will be delivered to the campus by May 10, 2021 and available for personal pickup. We ask that individuals be mindful of social distancing standards.

Student Acknowledgement:

Students will be requirement to sign for the receipt of funds along with the acknowledgement recognizing these funds are to be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of the campus operations due to the coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.)

Should a student self-declare that they are not in significant financial need, these funds may be returned to AMSC Financial Aid Officer to reallocate among additional students who showcase additional need as determined on a case-by-case basis. AMSC will not at the request of the student redirect their funds to a particular student in need.

Furthermore, AMSC will make our best attempt to contact the student by May 15, 2021. Thereafter the funds will be returned to our Emergency Grant Account to consider the needs of additional students. Funds remaining in the Emergency Grant Account after Dec 15, 2021 shall be returned to the U.S. Department of Education.

AMSC also received additional institutional grant funds, where the money was directed to be spent on covering any institutional costs associated with having to make significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to COVID-19. AMSC utilized these funds in an effort to ramp up our IT capabilities and equipment, so that we can better deliver online education options in the event that a similar or repeated crisis should occur in the future; as well put towards online attendance tracking options and on personal protective equipment and supplies that we will provide to all staff and students so that we may resume (as soon as possible) and maintain in person training operations. While our physical campuses have closed to in person instruction, the campuses have remained open for our administrative and educational staff to access supplies, provide WIFI for the administration of distance education.

Any money that is leftover after eligible institutional Coronavirus related expenses have been covered, will be repurposed into additional student emergency grant funds should there be another outbreak. Any institutional grant funds unused by June 1, 2021 shall be returned to the US Department of Education.

Attachment B

Acknowledgement COVID-19 Impact – AMSC College

Sample Student

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Under the Coronavirus AID, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The U.S. Department of Education has made Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students of our institution who need financial support for their expenses related to the COVID-19 disruption of campus operations.

Student Name: Sample Student

Email: sample.student@myebc.edu

Phone: 1234567890

Campus: Sample Campus

Have you been affected by COVID-19? Please check-mark which answer suits your situation:

Yes, I am affected

No, I am not affected

If YES, I attest that all information is true and accurate, and request a one-time Emergency Financial Aid Grant. I certify that I have been affected by COVID-19 and therefore agree to use the funds distributed to me for the following needs: food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and/or child care expenses as stipulated in the CARES HEERF Policy set forth by the US Department of Education.

If NO, I understand that I will not receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grant and funds will be reallocated among other qualified students.

Please sign the form to complete the document.

Sample Student

Signed By Sample Student

Signed On: May 9, 2021