

University of North Florida CARES Act Student Award Funding

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed on March 27, 2020 to address unmet financial and health needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Among its provisions is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) which directs institutions of higher education to use no less than 50 percent of funds received under Sections 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

In compliance with the 45-day reporting requirement:

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.

On April 11, 2020, the certification and agreement to receive the CARES Act emergency financial aid grants to students was signed by President Szymanski and submitted to the Department of Education. UNF acknowledges and certifies that no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act 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 of Education to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The UNF allocation for HEERF emergency financial aid grants to students funding is \$5,885,098.

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 Report and every 45 days thereafter).

As of August 10, 2020, \$2,343,000 has been disbursed and paid directly to 3,235 students.

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.

UNF estimates 8,200 students could potentially meet the criteria.

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 10, 2020, UNF has awarded 168 students \$3017,400 from the HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

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.

For the initial awarding of HEERF funding, UNF determined eligible students must meet the following criteria:

- < FAFSA on file
- < Degree seeking
- < Enrolled in Spring 2020 for on campus coursework as of March 13, 2020
- < Remaining unmet need for Spring 2020

The award amount is based on the amount of funding available, number of students eligible and vary by student based on remaining unmet need. Award amounts range from \$200 to \$750.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Recipients of CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students were notified of the award via their official UNF email. Students were instructed to review the information on our CARES Act webpage: https://www.unf.edu/onestop/finaid/Cares_Act_Aid_FAQ.aspx and if eligible, complete and upload the certification.

