



CARES Act Report

Northeastern State University
May 11, 2020

Background

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).

As part of the reporting requirements by the Department of Education, Northeastern State University is responding to the items required by the federal government.

Item 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.

- ***Northeastern State University signed and returned the certification and agreement form on April 10, 2020, for the first half of the CARES Act funds. We intend to use all of these funds received to provide Emergency Financial Grants to Students.***
- ***Northeastern State University signed and returned the certification and agreement form on April 22, 2020, for the second half of the CARES Act funds.***

Item 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.

- ***Northeastern State University received \$2,838,485 under the HEERF student portion of the CARES Act.***

Item 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 May 10, 2020, \$691,250.00 has been distributed to eligible students.***

Item 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.

- ***Based on federal guidance, the number of students eligible to receive the emergency financial aid grant was 4,503.***



Item 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

- *The total number of students who received the emergency financial aid grant was 1,524.*

Item 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.

- *Students must be Title IV eligible. To determine eligibility, students must file a FAFSA. Eligible full-time undergraduate students (12 credit hours or more) and graduate/professional students (9 credit hours or more) can receive up to \$500. Eligible part-time students enrolled in three or more credit hours can receive up to \$250. Enrollment status is determined by the number of direct billing hours for which a student is responsible for paying tuition; includes those in which the student is actively enrolled as well as those from which the student has withdrawn after the final refund date for the course.*

Item 7

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

- *NSU sent an email on May 1, 2020, one to each of the three groups of students:*
 1. *Eligible Students received an email with a link to a grant acceptance form. The form asks the students to check a box certifying the funds will be used to pay eligible expenses under the cost of attendance due to the disruption of COVID-19. Once the student checks the box, the refund process begins.*
 2. *Non-eligible Students received an email informing them they did not meet the criteria defined by the Department of Education.*
 3. *Potentially Eligible Students (FAFSA not on file) received an email requesting the FAFSA be completed so eligibility could be determined. Once the FAFSA is submitted, the student is notified of receipt. If eligible, instructions are sent to complete the grant acceptance form and to certify the use of funds.*