

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 Georgia College received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E20006. Being deemed an essential business, the college has continued to operate without layoffs, reductions in force, and no absolution of service contracts.

CERTIFICATION

Georgia College & State University signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 10, 2020. GCSU 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.

AWARD

Georgia College & State University received a total of \$4,082,028 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF. At least \$2,041,014 will be distributed directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the Coronavirus. These funds being from the Department of Education and pursuant to our Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

As of 02/02/2021, GCSU has distributed \$2,041,014 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Georgia College & State University has an estimate of 4,964 students 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. As of 12/18/2020, GCSU has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 2,644 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY

Tiers representing students Expected Family Contribution (EFC) are used to determine how much funds students are to receive. Below are the tiers with the amounts. Tier 1-3 were awarded in a batch process and students did not have to apply with an application.

- i. Tier 1 EFC= \$0- 5576 Award \$800 for the term (all Pell recipients)
- ii. Tier 2 EFC= \$5577-15000 Award \$500 for the term

- iii. Tier 3 EFC= \$15001- 25000 Award \$300 for the term
- iv. Tier 4 EFC > than \$25001 Award \$300 for the term

Tier 4 students must apply by completing an application. The application will then be reviewed by the CARES Act Review Committee for approval or denial. Students must provide explanations of expenses under a student's cost of attendance related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare expenses.

Students with extreme documentable circumstances will need to submit documentation with the application to be considered for more than amount awarded. Students will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office on a case by case basis for additional eligibility amounts.

INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS

Instructions, directions, guidance and the application provided to students regarding the Emergency Financial Aid Grants can be found [here](#).