



## **CARES Act – Emergency Financial Aid Grants Eighth and Final Report**

### **Background**

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed H.R. 748 the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act), which established 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. The following information is provided by Regis University (Regis) as required by the Department of Education (ED) in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act. This is Regis University's eighth progress report and presents information as of April 8, 2021. This is the final report as all funds have now been exhausted.

### **Acknowledgement and Assurances**

Regis University signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education on April 16, 2020 for the HEERF Funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants. Regis received its grant award notification dated April 27, 2020. In keeping with the terms of the certification, Regis will use no less than 50% of the funds received, as stated under 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

### **Funding Information**

Regis was notified that it was entitled to receive \$2,448,686 to be distributed in two installments. The first installment for \$1,224,343 was applied for on April 16, 2020. On April 27, 2020 Regis received notification that its grant was selected for funding. The second installment for \$1,224,343 was applied for on April 23, 2020. On May 6, 2020 Regis received notification that its grant was selected for funding.

From the first installment, Regis brought together a group of leaders from the Offices of Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Student Accounts, Financial Affairs, and the Provost to establish a process to aid our students consistent with the CARES Act.

In order to best serve students as quickly as possible, Regis University posted the CARES application at <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/eZaehx56rk> on April 29, 2020 and sent notification to students.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed directly to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of April 8, 2021 is \$1,224,343. As of the date of this report, the first installment has been fully allocated.

From the second installment and consistent with Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act, \$1,224,343 has been distributed. \$1,013,998 has been distributed as refunds and credits for student housing and dining costs, \$17,532 has been issued as refunds for unexpected costs due to the interruption of study abroad program cancellations, and the remaining \$192,813 has been used for technology upgrades and improvements. As of our fourth reporting period, the second installment was fully allocated.

### **Student Eligibility**

The estimated total number of students at Regis University eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus potentially eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act was 3,030. We sent an email communication to all of these students notifying them of the application process. We also posted a general communication on our Regis Updates website to catch any students who felt they should also be included and allow them to apply.

As of the date of this report, the total number of awards granted under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 1152.

### **Methodology**

The methods used by Regis University to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act was as follows:

In accordance with ED's direction, Regis prioritized the distribution of funds to eligible students demonstrating the greatest need. Regis students requesting funds must have been enrolled in the spring semester and were required to submit the CARES Application certifying eligibility and describing expenses related to their costs of attendance (e.g. food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, childcare, and transportation) due to COVID-19-related campus operations disruptions. Student requests were limited to \$750.00 in order to distribute the funds as widely as possible; however, Regis had the discretion to award above this amount.

All requests were reviewed individually to confirm a student's eligibility per requirements set forth by ED, to establish a student's level of need, and to evaluate the claimed expenses. A student's level of need was determined using information available to Regis University's Office of Financial Aid, including, but not limited to: Pell grant eligibility, previously awarded emergency aid, expected family contribution, etc. Claimed expenses had to be reasonable, related to a student's cost of attendance as enumerated in the list provided by ED, due to COVID-19-related campus operations disruptions, and must not have been duplicated in other requests for emergency assistance as reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid and/or the Regis

University Office of Student Affairs Emergency Funding Committee. Per the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), signed into law on December 27, 2020, by President Trump, awards under the first installment first disbursed after December 27, 2020 were distributed based on the increased flexibility allowed through the CRRSAA.

## Notices

### **Web Posting:**

[Regis receives Higher Education Emergency Relief funding for eligible students \(April 29, 2020\)](#)

The CARES Act, which establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), directs institutions of higher education (“institutions”) 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.

Institutions are authorized grant funding with the only statutory requirement that the funds be used to cover student’s expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including eligible expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. Loss of a job is not a result of the disruption of campus operations and does not qualify for HEERF.

Institutions are given latitude on how to distribute the funding and this means that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos encouraged the leadership of each institution to prioritize students with the greatest need.

Per further guidance received from the Department of Education, students who were enrolled in exclusively online courses are not eligible for this funding and only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA.

If you do not qualify under the CARES Act for HEERF but you are experiencing financial distress, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs Emergency Funding Committee at [studentaffairs@regis.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@regis.edu) to apply for support.

**Eligible students:** *Regis University will provide notice through RegisNet accounts to all students who were not enrolled exclusively online during the spring term prior to March 13 and who have a 19/20 FAFSA on file with the Office of Financial Aid. Other students who believe they might be eligible can access the HEERF Application [here](#). All applications received by **June 1, 2020**, will be reviewed and considered for funding during this initial timeframe. As funding is limited, students will be reviewed for funding based on their financial need as calculated by FAFSA and the information provided in the application. Students receiving funding will be notified directly through RegisNet accounts and all other applicants will receive a general notice when funds have been depleted.*

**Directed Email to Potentially Eligible Students:**



Hi Catherine,

The CARES Act, which establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), directs institutions of higher education ("institutions") 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.

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Institutions are given latitude on how to distribute the funding and this means that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds. Secretary DeVos did encourage the leadership of each institution to prioritize students with the greatest need.

You have been identified as someone who meets the minimum eligibility to apply for funding. Meaning you were not enrolled exclusively in online courses during the spring 2020 semester and you have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the Office of Financial Aid. If, due to the coronavirus and the disruption of campus operations, you had additional expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and/or childcare, you may qualify to receive a portion of this funding.

All applications received by June 1, 2020 will be reviewed and considered for a HEERF grant. As funding is limited, students' applications will be reviewed based on financial need as calculated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the information provided in the [HEERF Application](#). Students receiving funding will be notified directly through RegisNet accounts and all other applicants will receive a general notice when funds have been depleted.

If you do not receive a HEERF grant and you are experiencing financial distress, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs Emergency Funding Committee at [studentaffairs@regis.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@regis.edu) to apply for support.

We hope you are doing well and staying healthy. Thank you and take care.

Cindy Hejl  
Director of Financial Aid

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For your privacy and security, Regis University requires all email communications to be sent using regis.edu accounts. Therefore, all University students, faculty and staff, whether part-time or full-time, should regularly check their regis.edu email account for official University notifications regarding classes, financial aid, payment due dates, and other important information.

***Personal Email to Student When Application Approved:***



Hi Catherine,

Thank you for submitting your application for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Grant.

This email is to let you know that you were approved for a HEERF Grant which will be refunded to you through the Office of Student Accounts. If you set up direct Deposit through the Ranger Portal, your HEERF Grant will be sent to the bank account we have on file. If you did not set up direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed to you next week.

Stay well and take care,

Cindy Hejl  
Director of Financial Aid

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For your privacy and security, Regis University requires all email communications to be sent using regis.edu accounts. Therefore, all University students, faculty and staff, whether part-time or full-time, should regularly check their regis.edu email account for official University notifications regarding classes, financial aid, payment due dates, and other important information.