

CARES Act Student Emergency Aid Fund

Reporting

The U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to report on the receipt and usage of their allocation from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (HEERF). The report must be posted on the institution’s primary website, and contain the most current information from the date the institution received its allocation.

Report Timing

W&M received the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (HEERF) on May 5, 2020. The initial report should be posted within 30 days after that allocation and updated every 45 days thereafter.

August 31, 2020 Report

Required Report Items

An acknowledgment 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.

- W&M acknowledges this has taken place

The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department under the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

- W&M has been allocated, and received, \$1,974,134 in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (HEERF).

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18044(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

- As of 08/31/2020 - \$1,644,000 has been disbursed to students from this program.

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 18044(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

- As of 08/31/2020 - 4,087 students meet the Title IV/Section 484 eligibility criteria.

The Total number of students who have received Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

- As of 08/31/2020 - 2,616 students have received a grant from this program.

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.

- Please refer to our [CARES Act funding FAQ's page](#)

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

- The following email was sent to our two awarding groups on 5/7/2020.



Thu 5/7/2020 8:41 PM

W&M Financial Aid Office

Disbursement of Federal CARES Act Funding (Verification Form Link Correction)

To caresfund@lists.wm.edu

Dear Students,

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently allocated federal money to colleges and universities for emergency grants to students to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. A memo from U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos provided guidance for disbursing these resources and prioritizing distribution to students with the greatest need.

William & Mary will receive \$1.97 million for disbursement to students. In an effort to distribute emergency grants in accordance with federal guidance, these dollars will be allocated for eligible students with documented financial need. Students who are federal Pell Grant recipients will be eligible for a payment of \$1,000, and other students who have already demonstrated financial need through the financial aid process will be eligible for a payment of \$500. The CARES Act requires that recipients of this federal aid meet all of the eligibility requirements for federal Title IV funds as an [undergraduate](#) or as a [graduate or professional student](#).

You are receiving this email because you meet the criteria to be eligible for a payment. In order to receive it, you will need to complete a [verification form](#) by May 21 confirming that you have borne additional expenses as a result of the disruptions created by COVID-19. If you do not complete the [verification process](#) by May 21, you may lose your eligibility for a payment. Payments will be made in early June.

For students who have signed up for [direct deposit](#), payments will be made to the bank account of record. Students who have not signed up for direct deposit will have a check mailed to the address designated in their student account. We have elected to keep this [form](#) and this process as simple as possible in an effort to make these resources available as quickly as possible.

Students who either do not have documented financial need or are not eligible for Title IV funds may still be eligible for support via private dollars raised for that purpose. Already William & Mary has provided roughly \$80,000 in COVID-19 relief to students from the Health Emergency and Resources for the Tribe (HEART) Fund and other sources funded by our donors.

Please email aid@wm.edu if you have any questions or need further guidance. All of us wish you the best for successful completion of your spring semester and navigation of the challenges this pandemic has created.

Sincerely,
Office of Student Financial Aid
William & Mary
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

- Students were instructed to complete the following CARES Act verification form. The form was specific to the student's eligibility group and accessible via two-factor identity authentication.

- Example of verification form:



Thank you for visiting the W&M CARES Act funding portal.

William & Mary students who have demonstrated financial need during the 2019-2020 school year may qualify for \$500 in federal CARES funding. Do you represent that you had demonstrated financial need in the current school year and have borne additional expenses (e.g. food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care) as a result of the educational disruptions caused by COVID-19?

You must certify or select no.

I so certify.

No, I decline to receive a CARES payment.

Submit

- A follow-up email was sent on 5/18/2020 to students who had not yet completed the verification form in the W&M CARES Act funding portal.
- A reminder text message was sent from the Dean of Students Office on 5/19/2020
 - **W&M records indicate your eligibility for CARES Act grant. Please complete this verification form by May 21 if you have not done so.**
- Beginning May 25, 2020, students have been advised to complete the Dean of Students Emergency Funding process for consideration for CARES Act funding.