

CARES Act Website Posting -Final Report

Background

On 22 April 2020, the university submitted to the Department of Education the certification and agreement form to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136. Students enrolled in on-ground courses may be eligible to receive the funds. The funds have been designated to provide emergency grants to students related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Eligible expenses related to a student's cost of attendance include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

As part of the reporting requirements by the Department of Education, East Central University is responding to the following items provided by the federal government.

Item 1

An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned the certification and agreement form and that the institution has used or intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students.

- On 22 April 2020, the university submitted to the Department of Education the certification and agreement form to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136. The entire amount designated for student grants will be distributed to Title IV eligible students.

Item 2

The total amount of funds that the institution received under the CARES Act.

- The total amount of funds ECU received or will receive is \$1,533,173.

Item 3

Of those funds, the total amount that has been distributed to students as of the date of reporting (i.e. the first 30-day deadline, and then every 45 days thereafter).

- ECU distributed \$840,730 on May 7 to 1,128 students.
- ECU distributed the remaining \$692,443 on May 29 to 431 additional students.
- \$1,533,173 in emergency aid was given directly to 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 therefore eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant.

- ECU estimated there were 2,227 students who met the criteria outlined in the CARES Act.

Item 5

The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant.

- As of 26 May 2020, 1,559 students completed the survey stating they were eligible and incurred expenses related to COVID-19.

Item 6

Describe the methodology the institution used to determine which students did or will receive emergency financial aid grants and how much funding they did or will receive.

- The university reviewed all students in accordance with the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. To determine eligibility for Title IV funds of the students enrolled as of 13 March 2020 the following criteria were examined.
- Completed the FAFSA in the past six years.
- Making satisfactory academic progress.
- Not in default of student loans.
- Not on financial aid suspension.
- Not in one of the following categories:
 - Concurrent
 - International ○ DACA/undocumented
 - Felon
 - Enrolled in only online courses ○ Enrolled in spring intersession and 1st 8-week session
- The amount of funding per student was calculated based on each student's number of credit hours enrolled as of 13 March 2020 multiplied by a per credit hour rate, approximately \$55 per credit hour for the first group receiving the funds. After the second group of students were identified, the per credit hour allocation was increased to \$73.27 per credit hour. The first group received an additional \$18.27 per credit hour and the second group received the \$73.27 per credit hour. All students received the \$73.27 per credit hour allotment whether in two separate awards or in a single payment.

Item 7

Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by ECU to the students included the following:

- Students were notified by their ECU email accounts about the CARES Act emergency assistance on three separate days: 21, 28, and 30 April.
- A certification survey was sent to students on 21 April and students received daily reminders, Monday through Friday (weekends were excluded).
- Students were asked to verify their eligibility and asked if they incurred expenses related to COVID-19.
- Additional information was posted on ECU's website, [COVID-19 Response Plan](#).