

CARES ACT – EMERGENCY GRANTS TO STUDENTS

Dear Higher Education Community,

Department of Education has finally provided some guidance on the student eligibility and the use of funds to be given as Emergency Grants to Students. Here is a quick summary for the ease of reference. **It was compiled directly from the Department of Education Q&As and Certification Agreement language as of April 21, 2020.**

QUESTION	ANSWER
Initial certification required	Yes - signed agreement when filing application
Continuous certification required	Yes, certification that institution continued to pay existing employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable
Reporting requirements	<p>Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -30 days after signing initial certification agreement -every 45 days after the first report <p>Report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How grants were distributed to students -How the amount of each grant was calculated -Any instructions or directions that the institution gave to students about the grant <p>FURTHER GUIDANCE TO BE PROVIDED WITHIN FEDERAL REGISTER IN UPCOMING WEEKS</p>
<u>Eligible</u> use of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Emergency grants for students for expenses related to disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus -Reimbursement to the institution for institutionally-funded emergency grants to CARES eligible students as a result of COVID-19 made on or after March 27, 2020
<u>Ineligible</u> use of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reimbursement to the institution by institution for refunds issued to students for room, board, tuition, other fees -Reimbursement to the institution for technology hardware (laptops, hotspot internet devices, etc.) purchased for students -Reimbursement to the institution for continuing payments to student workers from institutional funds during National Pandemic - Applying funds to student accounts to cover outstanding balances.
<u>Eligible</u> students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students who filed FAFSA and demonstrated Title IV need -Students who did not file FAFSA but were eligible to file FAFSA -Incarcerated Second Chance Pell ESI students released from incarceration due to pandemic <p>Specific criteria that makes a student eligible to file FAFSA and participate in Title IV:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -US citizenship or eligible noncitizen status -Valid Social Security Number -Registration with Selective Service (for male students) -High school diploma, GED, or other equivalent
Ineligible students	<p>Excluded based on ED interpretation of Title IV eligible students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DACA -International -ESOL -Non-Degree <p>Specifically excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students studying in fully online programs before declaration of National Pandemic -Incarcerated Second Chance Pell ESI students NOT released from incarceration due to pandemic
How to disburse to students	<p>Disburse via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -checks -electronic transfer payments -debit cards -payment apps that adhere to the Department's requirements for paying credit balances to students
How not to disburse to students	<p>Do not disburse to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Credit card that can be used only on campus or in a retail outlet affiliated with the institution - Student Accounts for outstanding balances
Timing of the use of funds	<p>One year from the date of the certification agreement signed – when determining the timing of disbursements, a consideration should be given to when students incurred emergency expenses related to disruption of their campus experience due to coronavirus</p>