

# **CARES Act Department of Education Report Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) - Emergency Grants to Students**

*Updated July 1, 2020*

## **Certification and Agreement**

On April 16, 2020, Marymount California University (MCU) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds and 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. MCU received its Grant Award Notification on April 25, 2020.

## **Total Amount of Funds Received**

MCU has/will receive a total of \$874,466 from the Department of Education, representing 50 percent of funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, which will be provided directly to students in the form of CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

## **Total Amount of Funds Disbursed**

As of June 30, 2020, MCU has distributed \$419,125 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 479 Students.

## **Estimated Number of Eligible Students**

The estimated total number of students eligible to participate in programs under section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Student under 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is approximately 499 as of Spring 2020.

## **Total Number of Student Recipients**

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, MCU has distributed 479 CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants as of June 30, 2020.

## **Methods Used to Determine which Students will Receive Emergency Grants and How Much**

The CARES Act specifies that funds, by way of direct cash grants, should be used to assist students with "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus." Some examples of unexpected expenses incurred by students at this time are improved hardware or software at home, access to the internet, or other provisions.

The legislation limits eligibility for CARES Act funds only to students eligible to receive federal financial aid (students eligible to participate in programs under section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965), excluding assistance to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and international students. As noted above, internal reporting showed that 499 current MCU students were eligible to receive a portion of the CARES Act funding and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

In determining a distribution plan to MCU students for the CARES Act funding, the university recognized that any student, regardless of degree program or previously demonstrated financial need, may have additional expenses and financial needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With this in mind, a decision was made that all eligible students would receive an equal distribution of the funding in the amount of \$875 for each eligible student to help continue their education.

In order to quickly assist eligible students, no application was required to receive the \$875 direct cash grant.

### **Instructions, Direction and Guidance Regarding Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) - Emergency Grants to Students**

Webpage: MCU developed a Coronavirus Update page to provide information to all MCU students about activities at MCU being impacted by COVID-19. CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant funding and procedures at MCU are posted under Official Memos from MCU.

MCU will continue to monitor guidance and update reporting and distribution of funds accordingly.

Announcements sent to all students:

- Notifications were sent to eligible students on May 1.
- Message sent to the MCU Community by President Brian W. G. Marcotte dated May 15, 2020
- Students with questions about CARES Act funding were encouraged to email [financialaid@marymountcalifornia.edu](mailto:financialaid@marymountcalifornia.edu).