

## **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Fund Reporting**

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides 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 “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

This report provides details on the first award Western Illinois University received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E200622.

### **CERTIFICATION**

Western Illinois University signed and returned to the US Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 13, 2020. On April 28, 2020 WIU received notification of grant funding from the Department of Education. WIU will use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Western Illinois University will receive a total of \$7,997,093 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF. At least \$3,998,547 will be distributed directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the Coronavirus.

### **FUNDS DISTRIBUTED**

As of 05/28/20, WIU has awarded \$3,222,288 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

### **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

Western Illinois University has an estimated 8,118 students 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 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. As of 05/28/20, WIU has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 2,510 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

### **METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Score</b>
Pell Eligible	Receiving Pell Spring 2020	<b>1</b>
Displaced student workers including RAs	RA or displaced student worker as identified by Housing and Student Employment	<b>1</b>
Emergency Aid Application	Submitted by student	<b>1</b>
Enrollment	Full-time: Graduate: 9 or more hours, Undergrads:12 or more hours	<b>1</b>

Students with a score of >1 will receive:

- Pell increase and/or,
- RA award and/or,
- Amount requested on emergency aid application

Awards not to exceed \$2500 or the combination of the methods above whichever is lesser.

Students with a score equal to 1 will receive no more than the amount requested on an emergency aid application or \$500 whichever is less.

Students with a score of 0 will not receive an emergency grant.

### **INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS**

Instructions, directions, guidance and the application provided to students regarding the [Emergency Financial Aid Grants](#):

[Emergency Aid Application](#)

**[WIU Student Emergency Fund Established; Financial Aid Special Circumstances Appeal Available: April 14, 2020](#)**

**[Purple & Gold Day of Caring Set for April 24](#)**

**[WIU Student Emergency Fund Established; Financial Aid Special Circumstances Appeal Available: May 1, 2020](#)**

#### **Notification to students applying for emergency aid:**

Thank you for your application for a Western Illinois University Emergency Grant. These emergency funds are being made available to assist students in the disruption of educational pursuits as the result of COVID-19.

The committee is hard at work evaluating eligibility and availability of funds. Students will receive communication through their University email. We hope to begin making awards within the next 10 days. In the meantime please stay safe and be well.

1. Emergency aid is given out in the form of a grant and need not be repaid. Applications will be accepted so long as funds are available. These emergency funds are administered as one-time awards and contingent on being enrolled and degree-seeking.
2. If you or your families have experienced a change in income or employment as a result of COVID-19 you may benefit from a [Special Circumstance Appeal](#) through financial aid.

3. If you have a credit balance that is the result of an on-campus housing adjustment you may request those funds be refunded by emailing [billings@wiu.edu](mailto:billings@wiu.edu).
4. If you have not filed your 2020-21 FAFSA we encourage you to do so now to avoid missing out on valuable State funds.
5. To register for the Fall 2020 semester your account balance must be below \$3000. If it is, we encourage you to register and lock in your Fall 2020 schedule.
6. If you are experiencing hardship and need emergency assistance the State of Illinois has provided a guide to economic resources online at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](http://coronavirus.illinois.gov).

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid or application for financial aid (FAFSA) please email [financial-aid@wiu.edu](mailto:financial-aid@wiu.edu)

### **Notification to students awarded emergency aid:**

We have reviewed your request for emergency funding, and our goal is to serve as many students as possible. Funding for the emergency grants are provided through the Higher Education Relief Fund authorized by the CARES Act and the WIU Foundation.

You can view your award by logging into STARS and clicking on Financial Aid Awards under the Financials section of the drop down menu.

Grants are applied to a student's University account. Credits can be requested for refund by emailing [WIUCares@wiu.edu](mailto:WIUCares@wiu.edu) regardless of any balance owed. Credits will be issued via direct deposit. Please ensure that the correct bank account is set up under the Direct Deposit Authorization on STARS. If you have not authorized direct deposit, please do so prior to requesting the credit. If direct deposit is unavailable, please let Billing & Receivables know in your email request.

If you and/or your family have experienced a change in income and/or employment as a result of COVID-19, you may file a Financial Aid [Special Circumstance Appeal](#). If you are experiencing hardship and need emergency assistance, the State of Illinois has provided a guide to economic resources at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](http://coronavirus.illinois.gov).

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid, application for financial aid (FAFSA) or special circumstances appeal, email [financial-aid@wiu.edu](mailto:financial-aid@wiu.edu).

### **Notification to students not eligible for emergency aid:**

Western Illinois University has reviewed your request for emergency aid. To be eligible for emergency aid students must be enrolled for the Spring 2020 semester. During review of your application we determined you were not eligible for any emergency grant.

If you are experiencing hardship and need emergency assistance the State of Illinois has provided a guide to economic resources online at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](http://coronavirus.illinois.gov).

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid please email [financial-aid@wiu.edu](mailto:financial-aid@wiu.edu).