

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 7/10/2020, WIU has awarded \$3,457,918 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 07/10/20, WIU has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 2,772 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY

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 are not to be used for a current account balance. The fund can be used to meet a short-term financial need but is not designed to replace or supplement financial aid. Funding is made possible through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund via the CARES Act.

To be eligible* for emergency aid students must:

- 1) A US Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- 2) Be enrolled for the term in which funds are being requested.
- 3) Admitted into a degree program.
- 4) Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress
(wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/appeal/index.php)

To [apply](#) complete this simple form. One applicant per student; no additional requests for funding will be accepted.

INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS

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

6/15/2020 Email to all enrolled students Summer 2020 (2,535): see text under methods to determine student's eligibility.

[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.
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.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid or application for financial aid (FAFSA) please email 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. Based on your Summer 2020 enrollment you have been awarded a \$xxx emergency grant.

Grants are applied to a student's University account. Credits will be automatically refunded using the direct deposit on file with Billing & Receivables. 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 to ensure timely processing of your credit. If direct deposit is unavailable, please email Billing & Receivables at WIUCares@wiu.edu to request a paper check be mailed. Provide contact information in your request (i.e. address).

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.

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.

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 {a US Citizen or eligible non-citizen/meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress/enrolled for the Summer 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.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid please email financial-aid@wiu.edu.