

CARES ACT

CARES Act – Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund Grants to Students Required 45 Day Report (08/30/2020)

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.” The following information is provided by Wesleyan University as required by the Department of Education (“ED”) in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act. This is Wesleyan University’s first 30-day progress report and presents information as of July 6, 2020. Additional reports will be provided every 45 days.

45-day report

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or 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.

Wesleyan University signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education on June 12, 2020 for the HEERF Funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants. Wesleyan University received its grant award notification dated June 16, 2020. In keeping with the terms of the certification, Wesleyan University will use no less than 50% of the funds received, as stated under 18004(c) of the CARES Act, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Wesleyan University will receive a total of \$2,257,086 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, of which 1,128,543 is to be provided directly to students impacted by campus disruption due to the Covid-19 crisis.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

As of August 30, 2020, a total of \$1,074,355 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been awarded to students.

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 thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Wesleyan University estimates approximately 1,400 students are Title IV eligible as defined in 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.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

As of the date of this 45-day Disclosure, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 645.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Wesleyan University formed a committee to determine the method and criteria for funding. Students who are Title IV eligible (i.e., have a FAFSA on file), who demonstrate institutional financial need, and who certify that they incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations as a result of Coronavirus were determined to meet the qualifications for grant funding. Two funding levels based upon institutional financial need were established: students with a parent contribution of \$10,000 or less with eligible expenses would receive grants of \$1,225; students with a parent contribution greater than \$10,000 would receive grants of \$525.

Students who had certified eligible expenses by July 30, 2020 were eligible for an additional award payment of \$650 each.

Future awards and criteria will depend upon the amount of funding remaining following the certification process.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Beginning on May 15, 2020, [emails](#) with a link to a [certification form](#) were sent to eligible students as defined in question #6 above. The certification form described the eligibility requirements for CARES Act funding. The form requested that students certify whether or not they incurred eligible expenses. As of August 30, 2020, 733 students had responded to the certification. 645 students certified that they had incurred eligible expenses.