

HEERF - Student Financial Aid Quarterly Progress 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.

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) signed and submitted the Certification and Agreement document to the US Department of Education, through a Grants.gov submission, on April 15, 2020. UCM agreed to use no less than 50 percent of these funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students in accordance with Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act and agreed to comply with all aspects of this certification, including maintaining employees.

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.

UCM received its Grant Award Notification (GAN) on April 25, 2020 in the amount of \$3,454,160, all of which will be used to issue student financial aid grants.

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 December 31, 2020, total aid of \$2,811,465.72 has been issued 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.

UCM, to date, has identified 6,746 students who met the eligibility criteria based on Spring 2020 enrollment.

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 December 31, 2020, 6,746 students have had payments issued to them.

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.

Eligible students were determined based on FAFSAs and citizenship status on file and students having at least one in person course during the Spring 2020 semester which was still active after

March 13, 2020. Students' enrollment level/number of credit hours determined the level of aid they received, based on selected eligible expenditures which students incurred as part of the institutional transition to remote learning.

Credit Hours	12+	9-11	6-8	1-5
Aid Amount	\$450	\$325	\$200	\$75

Students who incurred expenditures beyond the identified allotment submitted applications to receive additional aid. The funds issued in this reporting cycle were from approved additional requests of aid.

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

The following communication was emailed to all students and all employees on Friday, May 8th and provided in an institutional (UCM Daily) news announcement on Monday, May 11th:

CARES Act Makes Emergency Grants for Students Possible

1 message

UCM News Bureau <newsbureau@ucmo.edu>

Fri, May 8, 2020 at 2:31 PM

To: All Students <allstudents@ucmo.edu>, All Employees <allemployees@ucmo.edu>

The federal government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act is making it possible for universities to provide students with emergency grants for specific expenses that are a direct result of the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Please click on the link below to learn more about how to apply for CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds.

<https://www.ucmo.edu/news/media-resources/corona-virus-covid-19/cares-higher-ed-emergency-relief-fund-faq/>

--

University of Central Missouri
News Bureau
ADM 302
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-543-4640

This communication also provided a link to UCM's FAQs page. UCM is systematically updating this page based on additional questions that are coming in.

A centralized email account has been created CARES@ucmo.edu, to address specific student questions. Standardized responses have been created for these questions. These standard responses, to date, are:

Can international students apply? - Please see [FAQs page](#) on "Who is eligible to apply?" for guidance on this.

Am I eligible to apply? - Please see [FAQs page](#) on "Who is eligible to apply?" for guidance on this. Pre-approved students will receive an email, through their UCM student email account, with the amount they will receive. Students who did not meet the initial eligibility criteria will receive an email with additional instructions on the application process.

Where is the application form? - The form will be made available as soon as possible and students will receive an email notification for when they may submit applications. Students are encouraged to complete an 2019-2020 FAFSA before submitting their application for support.

How will I get my money? - Please see [FAQs page](#) on "How do students receive their grant money?" for guidance on this. The funds will be directly deposited into a student's bank account if they are enrolled in direct deposit. Student's without direct deposit will receive a refund check in the mail. It is strongly recommended that students review their direct deposit setup and make sure your mailing address has been updated through 'My Central'.

When will I receive the money? You should receive your funds within the next two weeks.

Is there anything else I need to do? Students do not have to complete an application if they received an email indicating they are eligible to receive emergency money under the recently passed CARES Act. It is strongly recommended that students review their direct deposit setup and make sure your mailing address has been updated through 'My Central'.

Is the grant taxable income? The funds provided to students as part of the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) are not considered income, and, therefore are not taxable. For additional information, please see the [IRS FAQs page](#).

How can I use these funds? Please see the [FAQs page](#) which addresses allowable expenditures under these funds.

What if I did not get an email? Emails are in the process of being sent to the student's @ucmo.edu account and you should be getting one in the coming day or two.

Why are online students excluded from the CARES Act Funds? The U.S. Department of Education stated that CARES Act HEERF funds are to cover costs related to the institutional transition to remote learning. Students who were already enrolled in exclusively online courses during the Spring 2020 semester, per federal guidance (please see the [Department of Education's FAQs](#), item 12), are not eligible to receive these funds.

Additionally, for the preapproved students, the following language was sent to their student email accounts, with the approved amount provided to students:

Good Afternoon,

You have been identified as an eligible student to receive emergency funding under the recently passed CARES Act. These funds are granted to students to aid in covering costs as a result of UCM's decision to extend Spring Break and move to online classes for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester due to COVID-19.

Based on our data, we have determined that you are eligible to receive \$x.00 within the next two weeks.

You do not need to do anything to receive this funding and no application is required to receive this amount

We determined this amount by calculating an allowance for Course Materials/Technology, Food/Housing and Travel/Other costs, then spread this amount over the number of enrolled credit hours.

Application for Additional Funds

If you have incurred costs greater than \$x.00 as a result of UCM's changes due to COVID-19, you may apply for additional aid online starting May 18, 2020. The link to the online application will be found through our FAQ page [here](#). You will be required to justify your request for assistance and provide documentation, such as receipts, on the application. These funds are limited and will be issued on a first come first serve basis. Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2020, or until all funds are disbursed.

If you have any questions, check out our [FAQ](#) (link) first. If you cannot find your answer in the FAQ, please email cares@ucmo.edu following these guidelines:

1. Your message to cares@ucmo.edu must be from your UCM email account;
2. Include your legal first and last name and your UCM ID # (700#)
3. The nature of your request

Thank you,
UCM CARES Team

Instructions and links for the application were emailed to students and the email is included below.