

CARES Act – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Required 45-day Report (July 22, 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 Welch College as required by the Department of Education (“ED”) in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act. This is Welch College’s 45-day progress report and presents information as of **July 22, 2020**. Additional reports will be provided every 45 days.

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.

Welch College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education on **May 1, 2020** for the HEERF Funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants. Welch College received its grant award notification dated **May 11, 2020**. In keeping with the terms of the certification, Welch College 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.

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.

Welch College will receive a total of **\$230,280** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, of which **\$115,140** is to be provided directly to students impacted by campus disruption due to the Covid-19 crisis.

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).

On **May 13, 2020**, Welch College began accepting applications from students for Emergency Financial Aid Grants. As of **July 2, 2020**, **\$115,854** has been awarded.

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.

Welch College identified **208** 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.

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 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 **87**.

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.

Welch College distributed funds in two phases by using an application process. Students were notified on **May 13, 2020** via email of the availability of the funding and application process. The phase one short application asked students to indicate expenses experienced due to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Applications were accepted through **May 29, 2020**. Funding amounts are based on a predetermined amount according to the applicant's EFC (Expected Family Contribution) for the 2019-20 academic year.

Secondly, the college released the remaining funds on a case by case basis to those with more significant needs as a direct result of COVID-19. Students were notified on **May 28, 2020** via email of the phase two application. Students must complete (and be approved to receive) the phase one application prior to be considered for phase two. Applications were accepted through **June 10, 2020**. Funding amounts for the phase two grant were based on the expenses that each student self-reported. Phase two applications were reviewed by the Financial Aid Coordinator and Vice President of Financial Affairs.

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

Welch College sent an email to enrolled eligible cohorts on **May 13, 2020** (for phase one), **May 28, 2020** (for phase two) and **June 8, 2020** (reminder for phase two) informing the students of the grant. The emails, which are appended to this report in the following pages, included information about the CARES Act Emergency Grant, the requirements for eligibility, the intention of the funds and how to apply for the grant.

May 13, 2020

Dear Student,

We understand that these are very different days you are experiencing. No doubt, this has likely caused additional financial strain for you and your family. You may know that at the end of March, the U.S. Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), and it was signed into law on March 27th. This historic bill allocated over \$2 trillion in economic relief into the United States economy.

In addition to payments made directly to many Americans, the bill also included \$14 billion in higher education emergency relief funds to assist colleges and college students with costs such as course materials, technology, food, housing, child care, and transportation incurred as a result of the interruption of the semester due to COVID-19. Based on allocations by the U.S. Department of Education, Welch College is expected to receive a total of \$115,140 to fund emergency grants to students. The funds are intended to assist students who have experienced a financial hardship from the disruption of the semester because of the COVID-19 pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's educationally-related expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, transportation, healthcare, and childcare).

We anticipate access to the funds soon. To that end, we are taking applications and will offer a CARES Act grant to applicants who meet certain criteria. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled, registered for and actively enrolled in residential courses prior to March 13th, and eligible to receive Title IV aid. (For information regarding Title IV eligibility, see here.)

Welch College expects to distribute the emergency grants in two phases. For the first phase, eligible students will receive a predetermined amount based on their EFC for the 2019-20 academic year. In order to receive the emergency grants, eligible students need to complete the brief application found here. (*_In order to complete the application, one will need to login using his or her Welch.edu email address._*) We expect to release approximately 68% of the emergency grants to students in this phase. Secondly, the college will release the remaining funds on a case by case basis to those with more significant needs as a direct result of COVID-19. A second application, that is forthcoming, is necessary to be considered for the second phase emergency grants.* *

We are committed to the health and safety of our community. To learn more about what steps Welch College has taken in response to COVID-19, visit www.welch.edu/coronavirus.

We are praying for you as you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Craig Mahler

Vice President for Financial Affairs

May 28, 2020

Dear Student,

On May 13, my office distributed information about higher education emergency relief funds to assist colleges and college students with costs such as course materials, technology, food, housing, child care, and transportation incurred as a result of the interruption of the semester due to COVID-19. (See the original email pasted below.)

Based on allocations by the U.S. Department of Education, Welch College is expected to receive a total of \$115,140 to fund emergency grants to students. The funds are intended to assist students who have experienced a financial hardship from the disruption of the semester because of the COVID-19 pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's educationally-related expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, transportation, healthcare, and childcare).

As explained on May 13, the college expects to distribute the emergency grants in two phases. For the first phase, eligible students will receive a predetermined amount based on their EFC for the 2019-20 academic year. We are processing grant payments now for those who have completed the phase one application. *The deadline for the college to receive the phase one application is Friday, May 29 at 3:00 p.m. *The brief application for phase one grants is found here.

The second phase application is now available and can be completed here. The college will release the remaining funds on a case by case basis to those with more significant needs as a direct result of COVID-19. Students *must *complete (and be approved to receive) the phase one application prior to be considered for phase two. *The deadline for submitting the phase two application is Wednesday, June 10.* (_Students must be logged into their Welch.edu email account in order to complete either application._)

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We are praying for you as you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Blessings,

Craig Mahler

Vice President for Financial Affairs

Jun 8, 2020

Dear Student,

On May 28, my office distributed the CARES Act Phase Two application for higher education emergency relief funds to assist colleges and college students with costs such as course materials, technology, food, housing, child care, and transportation incurred as a result of the interruption of the semester due to COVID-19.

Based on allocations by the U.S. Department of Education, Welch College is expected to receive a total of \$115,140 to fund emergency grants to students. The funds are intended to assist students who have experienced a financial hardship from the disruption of the semester because of the COVID-19 pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's educationally-related expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, transportation, healthcare, and childcare).

As previously explained, the college is distributing the emergency grants in two phases. For the first phase, eligible students received a predetermined amount based on their EFC for the 2019-20 academic year. We are processing the grant payments now for those who have completed the phase one application.

The second phase application can be completed here. The college will release the remaining funds on a case by case basis to those with more significant needs as a direct result of COVID-19. Students must have completed (and be approved to receive) the phase one application prior to be considered for phase two. *The deadline for submitting the phase two application is Wednesday, June 10*. (Students must be logged into their Welch.edu email account in order to complete either application.)

We are committed to the health and safety of our community. To learn more about what steps Welch College has taken in response to COVID-19, visit www.welch.edu/coronavirus.

We are praying for you as you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Blessings,

Craig Mahler

Vice President for Financial Affairs