

## CARES Act 30 day report

The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provides institutions with funding to provide cash grants to students for expenses related to disruptions to their educations due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare. Each institution receiving CARES Act funds is directed to comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and submit an initial report (the “30-day Fund Report”) to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution’s Certification and Agreement to the Department. The '30-Day Fund Report' information follows:

1. Lehigh University signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement on April 21, 2020. The University 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.
2. The University received \$1,808,068 on April 28, 2020, from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of May 27, 2020 is \$0.
4. 2,957 students enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester filed a FAFSA and were 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.
5. As of May 27, 2020, 0 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
6. The University will award CARES Act funds to students who are eligible for Title IV funding as determined by a submitted FAFSA. The amount that a student will receive will be based on the amount of expenses that each student has incurred as a result of the transition to remote-learning in the Spring and Summer semesters.
7. The University sent an email to students regarding available funding and provided a link to the request form. Students who have eligible expenses should submit the request form by Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The University will review those requests and award funds to students with financial need (based on their financial aid application) and if there is money remaining, we will provide funding to students who do not have need but otherwise meet the eligibility criteria.

## About CARES Act Funding

*Below is the information that was sent to Lehigh students about the opportunity to apply for CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The information below is retained for informational purposes.*

I hope that this email finds you well and that you are taking care of yourself during these unprecedented times. We are writing to make you aware that Lehigh has been given funding as part of The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act that is to be used to provide cash grants to students for expenses **related to disruptions to their educations due to the COVID-19 outbreak** such as course materials, food, housing, technology-related expenses, and transportation costs. The CARES Act funding cannot be used to cover tuition and/or fees and is not meant to replace lost wages for the student or the parent.

Students who [are eligible to receive Title IV financial aid](#) (Federal financial aid such as Direct Loans, Work Study and/or Pell Grants) are eligible to receive the CARES act funding. If you have experienced financial hardship due to the disruption of your education, you can submit a request online: [Request for CARES Act Funding](#)

We will collect applications through Friday, May 22 and make funding decisions by May 29. You will be notified of the result via email. Funding will first be awarded to students with financial need and if there is money remaining, we will provide funding to students who do not have need but otherwise meet the eligibility criteria.

## FAQs

### **Q: How do I know if I am eligible to apply?**

A: Students who meet all of the following criteria are eligible to apply: (1) working towards a degree or certificate at Lehigh University; (2) enrolled in Spring 2020 in at least one on-ground/in-person course, even if that course moved to an online format due to the pandemic; (3) have a valid FAFSA on file.

### **Q: Will everyone who applies for a CARES Act grant receive one?**

A: Not necessarily. We received limited funding from the U.S. Department of Education and those funds will be distributed to students with the most demonstrated need. If there is funding remaining, we will continue to award to students without regard to financial need.

### **Q: Do I need to repay this grant?**

A: No, money received through this fund does not need to be repaid. This fund does not impact nor replace any financial aid you may currently receive, and it is a one-time grant.

### **Q: When will I know if I will receive a grant?**

A: We will review all requests the week of March 25. You will be notified of the decision via your Lehigh email by March 29. Checks will be processed the following week and may take up to two weeks to receive via mail.

### **Q: If I receive a grant from the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, is it taxable?**

A: No. Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act are qualified disaster relief payments per the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and will not be taxable.

### **Q: Who can I contact if I have other questions about the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund?**

A: Please contact the Office of Financial Aid with any questions regarding eligibility or administration of the CARES Act funds.