
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 for the HEERF. The HEERF is used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students under award No. P425E200622.

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.

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.

As of 8/24/2020, WIU has awarded \$3,808,468 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Students will be identified for emergency grants based on two factors: Pell eligibility and receipt of book award(s) during the 2019-20 AY.

- Returning students: Students who were awarded a Freshmen Book Award (807.04) will receive a CARES grant in the amount of \$600 Fall 2020.
- New transfer students: Using the criteria of the Leatherneck Book Award new transfer students will receive a CARES grant in the amount of \$600 Fall 2020.
- Remaining funds will be awarded based on receipt of a Parent/Student income appeal. The amount will be determined by the Committee on Professional Judgment (CPJ) for no more than the maximum 20-21 PELL Grant.

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

8/12/2020 Website
(http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/special_programs/emergencyAidApplication.php) updated to reflect parameters of Fall 2020 awarding criteria for CARES funds.

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

[Emergency Aid Application](#)

Grants have been made using a student's 2019-20 and 2020-21 Pell eligibility. *You have been awarded a \$600 grant for the Fall 2020 term.* If you withdraw from the university or drop all of your hours prior to the 10th day of the semester (September 4, 2020) you may be required to repay these funds. These funds are separate from any Title IV Funds (i.e. Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loans) you may be receiving/expecting as a refund. The earliest Title IV refunds may be issued is Friday, August 21, 2020.

To receive disbursement students must be meeting or have successfu-5(ss)5(fu-5(ss)5(fu,78024 634.4(e)-5(i)12