



## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Reporting

October 16, 2020

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)-IHE/Student Aid offers funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant. More information about the CARES Act and HEERF can be found [here](#).

On April 17, 2020, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CARES Act. WMed received confirmation and acceptance of the document on May 7, 2020. WMed's allocation of funding received through the CARES Act is \$78,563. WMed will use no less than 50% of the funds (\$39,282) received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students. As of October 16, 2020, WMed has disbursed \$34,481 to students.

WMed students were notified about the availability of these Emergency Financial Aid Grants and the application process for the funds via email notifications, Student Weekly Communications, the Student Portal and forums. Students had to complete the [CARES Act Request Form](#), and submit it to the Office of Financial Aid (OFA) at [FinancialAid@med.wmich.edu](mailto:FinancialAid@med.wmich.edu) along with supporting documentation. The application is listed as Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act under the Forms section of the Student Portal. The application provided instructions that the student must have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or be eligible to file.

Eligibility for the Emergency Financial Aid Grant for WMed students is based on financial issues related to the disruption of campus operations, such as additional technology equipment, educational aids, and home office equipment. Completed applications are reviewed by the OFA for accuracy, verification of Title IV eligibility and if it meets the guidelines of the HEERF grant funds.

Due to the increase of requests and ongoing disruptions, the OFA developed the following guidelines setting limits for the Financial Aid Grant Amounts on August 12, 2020 in an effort to assist as many students as possible. No Grant will exceed the maximum Pell Grant.

- Education aids up to \$250
- Home office equipment up to \$200
- Technology equipment up to \$300
- Internet service up to \$150
- Residency Interview tools up to \$120

Each student's situation is evaluated individually based on the information provided in the student's application. WMed maintains the flexibility to increase or decrease the amount per eligible expense to each student on a case-by-case basis. Approved requests are submitted for payment through the medical school's student information system.

### **Academic Year 2020-2021**

The current estimated number of students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant is approximately 314. As of October 12, 2020, WMed has issued \$29,544 Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to seventy-nine students, based on the approved applications.

### **Academic Year 2019-20**

The estimated number of students that were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant was approximately 295. As of October 12, 2020, WMed issued \$4,937 Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to twelve students, based on the approved applications for the 2019-20 academic year.