

CARES ACT REPORTING ON EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS TO STUDENTS

September 30, 2020 Report

On March 27, 2020, the Federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub L. No. 116-136, providing funds to institutions from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to make Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The law requires institutions to report certain information related to the use of these funds. The following information is reported as of September 30, 2020 and is updated from July 6, 2020.

- I. This statement shall serve to acknowledge that our institution signed and returned to the US Department of Education the *Certification and Agreement - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students*. We further attest that our institution has used 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.
- II. The total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Student is \$44,228.00.
- III. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of May 22, 2020, is \$22,114.00.
- IV. The estimated total number of students at our 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 is 127.
- V. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to date is 33.
- VI. The following is the method used by our institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much each student has received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Grants were awarded to students by determining eligibility, timeliness of application, perceived need and impact due to COVID-19 on a first come first serve basis. The student recipients were determined by their responses on the Student Emergency Relief Grant Application. A committee anonymously reviewed the student responses and, based on the student's statements about how their needs for healthcare, childcare or other critical life needs, or needs that if not filled, would prevent academic success (such as needed technology), eligible students were organized into three categories: those most in need, those with general need, and those who provided minimal information or had known access to other Title IV Funds. The students with the most need received the maximum (\$1,100) in AOMA's eligible requested range. Those in the last category received the minimum (\$250 and \$254) within the range. Students in the general need category received an averaged amount (\$615) of the remaining funds.

VII. The following instructions/directions/guidance was provided by our institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

A notice and application (see attached “Student Emergency Relief Grant” application form) was posted on the AOMA Student Website, as well as emailed directly to every student by AOMA’s Student Services and Institutional Effectiveness Coordinator.

The notice stated as follows:

“...As you visit www.aomalife.com, what you'll find is that we secured a grant from the government to be able to provide financial assistance to those financially affected by COVID-19. The grants are available in increments up to \$1100. It is first come first serve while funds last. We encourage you to just apply for funds you need. The committee meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and applications are de-identified for the committee. For any questions, reach out to *Natalie Garrett* at NGarrett@aoma.edu.

Go to www.aomalife.com and look for the green bar and click "apply now" for the application.”

USE OF REMAINING GRANT DOLLARS

Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act allows Recipient (School) to use **up to 50 percent of the funds received to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus** so long as such costs do not include payment to contractors for the provision of pre- enrollment recruitment activities, including marketing and advertising; endowments; or capital outlays associated with facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship (collectively referred to as “Recipient’s Institutional Costs”).

AOMA will use the remaining grant dollars (\$22,114) to help fund a needed Learning Management System (LMS) to effectively support on-line learning during the COVID-19 health crisis. In addition, a portion of these grant dollars will also be used to fund needed technology upgrades in our classrooms. This will allow our school to most effectively offer on-line and on campus classes when our school reopens.

We secured a new Learning Management System with D2L/Brightspace in May and are in process of transitioning from use of Zoom to the new platform. We are submitting the required documentation to our regional and programmatic accreditors but have a waiver for distance learning through December of this year. As of August 19, 2020, new PCs, camera equipment and laptops for faculty and students (loaner units) have been purchased as well to support distance learning.