

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Reporting:
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh 45-Day Fund Report
June 24, 2020**

Overview:

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”).

On May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education posted their reporting requirements for HEERF participating institutions. Each HEERF participating institution is responsible for providing this information in report format (the “30-day Fund Report”). In addition, these participating institutions are required to post the information listed below on the institution’s primary website. Accordingly, the following information will be easily accessible to the public and made available 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh hereby addresses questions for the “45-day Fund Report”:

1. 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.

***UWO Response:** UW Oshkosh completed and submitted the Funding Certification Agreement on Friday, April 10, 2020. A team was established in order to deliver 50% of the funding to students impacted by the COVID - 19 pandemic.*

2. 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.

***UWO Response:** UW Oshkosh received \$3,103,881 in funding to be distributed among its applicants. As of the posting date of this report, all funds have been disbursed to eligible students and drawn down from the U.S. Department of Education’s G5 system.*

3. 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).

UWO Response: *No funding was given to students during the initial 30-day reporting period. During the next 45-day period, UW Oshkosh awarded and disbursed its allocation of \$3,103,881 to eligible undergraduate and graduate students.*

4. 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.

UWO Response: *With over 10,000 students enrolled at UW Oshkosh, we anticipated several thousand students to participate in the program.*

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

UWO Response: *UW Oshkosh awarded and disbursed HEERF funding to a total of 2,011 students. The awards ranged from \$200 on up to approximately \$6,195. The average award was \$1,543.00.*

6. 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.

UWO Response: *We used an application process for students to apply for the funding. Students were given a ten-day window to submit their application before we began the review process in order to determine their eligibility for the funding. Students were directed to identify the specific needs [costs] they were experiencing on the application. Also, they were given the opportunity to list the amount of funding they were requesting through the application process. We began the awarding process as soon as possible after the close of the ten-day application period.*

After reviewing all of the applications submitted during the ten-day period, there were remaining funds to be awarded. We decided to continue to review and award applicants who sent applications after the initial application period. These were reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Within a few days, all of the funding was awarded and disbursed to the students.

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

UWO Response: *We sent several emails to students before and during the application period to encourage them to apply for the CARES Grant funding. The instructions were straight forward and students were able to access the application from multiple websites.*

Also, we reached out to parents via email with the hope that they would encourage their students to apply for the funding. There was a website for students to ask questions if they had any concerns or questions about the process. Several team members monitored this site and responded quickly to student and parent questions.