

## Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) Quarterly Reporting

At MSOE, we know that many of our students are facing significant challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. The Coronavirus, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. One aspect of the act was the creation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). HEERF provides funds to institutions for emergency grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. Visit the [HEERF Emergency Grants](#) website to learn more.

**The CARES Act requires all colleges and universities participating in the program to provide access to the following information:**

- 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.**

MSOE signed the certification agreement to receive the HEERF Grant on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The funds were received by MSOE on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. MSOE acknowledges its assurance that it 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. MSOE's total allocation is \$2,285,262 and will use \$1,142,631 to go directly to students.

- 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.**

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, MSOE has received \$1,142,631 to provide Emergency Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- 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 quarterly thereafter).**

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \$1,142,631 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants has been distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Final Report, verified March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

- 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.**

The estimated total number of students at the institutional eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 2,067.

- 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.**

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES act was 2,020. Final Report, verified March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**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.**

Per guidance from the US Department of Education, MSOE utilized the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to determine student eligibility based on who had the greatest need. These grants ranged between \$250 and \$1,100, based on the student's EFC and enrollment status (full-time, three quarter time, half-time, and less than half-time) for all eligible undergraduate students from the spring 2020 quarter. \$1,099,012 of the funds were automatically disbursed to all eligible undergraduate students. The small amount of remaining funds, in the amount of \$43,618, will be distributed to eligible students based on expressed needs on a first come first serve basis. *Policy Update 1/20/2021*-In order to spend the funds timely and put them in the hands of students with the greatest need, MSOE distributed the remaining amount (\$23,844) to the neediest eligible students, who are enrolled in the winter 2021 quarter, are full-time, have the lowest EFC (automatic zero EFC as defined by the FAFSA) and lowest FAFSA income.

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

MSOE distributed the funds to eligible undergraduate students directly deposited to their bank accounts or a check was mailed to the student's home address if direct deposit is not set up with MSOE. The University notified students with an award notification and letter sent to their email account on file explaining the source, intentions, and requirements related to the funds. Students were advised that the funds were Federal grants intended to be used for unforeseen expenses that incurred related to the disruption of campus operations and transition to online learning during the Spring 2020 term. An example of the award notification can be found below.

For the small amount of remaining funds, the Financial Aid Office directly emailed all Title IV eligible graduate students to self- identify and complete a short application to provide an explanation of their needs. Undergraduate students who self-identify with the financial aid office as having a greater need beyond the funds initially awarded to them will also be able to complete a short application, upon request, to be considered for additional assistance.

**Notification to students receiving the grant**

Dear Student,

The Coronavirus Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27,2020. MSOE has received funding from the CARES Act for direct emergency grant payments to students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Undergraduate Title IV eligible student awards were prioritized based on students

who have the greatest need as determined by the Expected Family Contribution from filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Based on the information provided in your FAFSA, you are eligible for these funds and will be receiving payment. Emergency grants will be directly deposited to your bank account or sent via mail to the address on file if you do not have direct deposit set up with MSOE (please note that checks may take up to 10 business days to arrive). Either way, no action is needed by you. The grant is intended for academically related expenses incurred due to COVID-19 from the disruption of campus operations. Some examples include expenses related to food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare. Your receipt of these funds will serve as verification that you have financial needs in one or more of these areas.

If you have additional questions about the CARES Act or this Emergency Grant, please visit [MSOE's financial aid website](#) or contact the Financial Aid Office at [finaid@msoe.edu](mailto:finaid@msoe.edu) or by calling 414-277-7223.