CARES - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Public Notice

The College of Saint Elizabeth signed the Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 10, 2020. The College received the funds on April 20.

As stated in the certification agreement, the College agreed to allocate no less than 50% of the $935,846 received from the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care).

The College disbursed the funds to eligible students in several rounds. ROUND ONE included all students living in residence on March 21. ROUND TWO included all other undergraduate students who were enrolled full time on March 21 (commuters, Continuing Studies students). Based on remaining funds, a third round will be possible during the fall semester.

We estimate that there are 846 students eligible to apply for a CARES Emergency grant. Because we believed that the students who experienced the greatest disruption were those living in college housing, the initial opportunity to apply for a grant was offered to Title IV eligible students living in residence at the time of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order closing the campus and mandating remote instruction. Of the 336 students living in residence at the time, 334 were determined to be Title IV eligible, thus representing our highest need population.

As of May 13, 2020, the grant was offered to 334 eligible students who were living in college housing as of March 21, the date that New Jersey Governor Murphy signed the executive order mandating remote learning. As of May 20, 2020, of the 334 eligible students 237 have completed the application, and the verification of their request was underway or completed. In addition, checks totaling $182,457 had been disbursed as of May 20, 2020. The College administration determined that for the first round of distribution, students could apply for up to $1,000. A simple application asked the students to identify categories of need (food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care) and provide the amount expended on each category. No documentation of expenses was required beyond indicating the amount expended in each category. A signature was required on the application to verify the student’s identity. Following verification of eligibility, the funds were made available to the student. NOTE: The College has no fully online undergraduate programs so the qualification for funds was related exclusively to COVID disruption and Title IV eligibility.

The communication provided to students in ROUND ONE is as follows:

I am pleased to share that if you are a traditional undergraduate student who was enrolled at the College on March 24, 2020, lived on campus in Spring 2020, was displaced from student
housing by the coronavirus pandemic and have a FAFSA on file, you are eligible to receive funding of up to $1,000 from the Emergency Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The CARES Act distributions are limited in scope and based on personal eligibility and circumstances. I hope you will take advantage of this funding opportunity by completing the CARES Act Emergency Grant application and that it helps as you continue to manage the new realities of your personal situation, cope with losses, continue with your online courses and plan for the future so that you successfully meet your personal and educational goals.

Applications must be completed and submitted by 5 p.m. on May 5, 2020. We expect final notification of your grant award to occur within 14 days of your application being verified and approved.

You can find more information in the CARES Act Emergency Grant application FAQ. If you have additional questions regarding the application itself, contact Louise Novotny at lnovotny@cse.edu.

These funds are intended to help students like yourself with “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus; specifically, food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and child care expenses.”

I understand these are tough times with difficult choices, particularly when it comes to financial obligations. You are no doubt faced with many demands. Because this aid is being provided to you specifically because you are a student, we encourage you to consider fully all of your options. If you need advice while making your choices, please know that we are always here to help. Feel free to contact Financial Aid at (973) 290-4721 or financialaid@cse.edu.

The application directed the student to enter the total amount of the funds “requested to assist with allowable expenses incurred as a result of the campus disruption related to COVID-19. Receipts are not required for expenses listed; however, the maximum request cannot exceed $1,000, which may be taxable.” Students entered a dollar amount in each of the allowable categories: food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care. Funds were subsequently distributed and students have been notified that the grant has since been determined to be non-taxable.

ROUND TWO applications were made available beginning the week of May 18. Eligible students in ROUND TWO were offered the opportunity to apply for up to $750. Eligible fulltime traditional undergraduate students received an application similar to that used in ROUND ONE which asked for the amount expended in each expense category. No receipts for the expenses were required. Students were required to sign the application to verify their identity.

All full-time Continuing Studies students (adults over 24 years of age) were provided with the opportunity to apply for a CARES Act Emergency grant. Since FAFSA’s are not completed by all Continuing Studies students, they were asked to attest to the following: 1) Citizen or eligible non-citizen; 2) No student loans in default; and 3) If male, selective service registration. If the student attested to all three and signed the application, they were
determined to be eligible to receive a grant. The remaining part of the application was the same as that used in ROUND ONE.

The communication sent to commuter and Continuing Studies students on May 18 is as follows:

As promised, I am sending additional details on the CARES Act Emergency Grant.

I am pleased to share that if you are a full-time traditional undergraduate student who was enrolled at the College on March 24, 2020 with a FAFSA on file and commuting to campus in Spring 2020, or are a full-time continuing studies student who is Title IV eligible, you may be entitled to receive funding of up to $750 from the Emergency Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

If you are a full-time Continuing Studies student and are unsure of your Title IV eligibility, the application will ask you three questions. Those three questions, if answered affirmatively, demonstrate your qualifications to receive a grant. By attesting to each question and signing the application you are accepting responsibility for the honesty of your answers. If you do not answer honestly, you can be prosecuted for violation of a federal law.

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Applications must be completed and submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020. We expect final notification of your grant award to occur within 14 days of your application being verified and approved.

You can find more information in the CARES Act Emergency Grant application FAQ. If you have additional questions regarding the application itself, contact Louise Novotny at lnovotny@cse.edu.

These funds are intended to help students like yourself with "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus; specifically, food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and child care expenses."

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Please know that we are very proud of the focus and dedication you have placed on completing this semester successfully despite the day-to-day challenges. I know it's not easy and I pray for you and all CSE students every day to remain safe and well.
As of May 19, a total of 113 ROUND TWO applications have been completed and are in the process of being verified. Applications will be accepted through May 25.

July 3, 2020
The award process has been completed for those students displaced during the spring semester. Four hundred and seven students applied and were found to be eligible under the conditions stated above. The total financial award to date to the 407 students is $353,286.71. The remaining funds will be held until fall and will awarded to eligible students using similar process.

December 17, 2020
During the Fall 2020 semester, the institution distributed $1,000 to five students. The total financial award to date is $358,286.71.

**Award: P425E200120**

- Name of entity receiving award: College of Saint Elizabeth
- Amount of award: $467,923.00
- Funding agency: U.S. Department of Education
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) program number for grants: CFDA 84.425E
- Program source: Education Stabilization Fund
- Award title descriptive of the purpose of the funding action: Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Student under the CARES Act
- Location of the entity (including congressional district): 2 Convent Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 - Congressional. Dist. NJ-11
- Place of performance (including congressional district): 2 Convent Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 - Congressional. Dist. NJ-11
- Unique identifier of the entity and its parent: DUNS 065804601
- Total compensation and names of top five executives:
  - Total compensation: $979,010
  - Helen J. Streubert, President
  - Michael Fesco, Vice President for Finance and Administration
  - Katherine M. Buck, Vice President for Student Life
  - Joanne Landers, Vice President for Enrollment Management
  - Joseph Erckert, Vice President for Institutional Advancement