



Cedar Crest College
PR/Award No. P425E200805
Report No. 4: Quarterly Report

Introduction

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the first award Cedar Crest College received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

Cedar Crest College, reviewed, signed, and returned the [U.S. Department of Education’s Certification and Agreement](#) for these funds on April 13, 2020, and we received our grant award notification on April 22, 2020. In keeping with the terms of the certification, Cedar Crest College will 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 directly to students.

Total Award

Cedar Crest College will receive a total of \$1,526,417 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF, of which at least \$763,209 will be provided directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus.

Funds Distributed to Date

As of the close of business on October 6, 2020, Cedar Crest College has awarded \$692,977.13 in direct grants to students.

Student Eligibility and Recipients to Date

The total number of Cedar Crest College students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore eligible to receive CARES Act emergency financial aid grants is 936. Of those students, 829 have received an award as of October 6, 2020.



Methods Used to Determine which Students Receive Aid and How Much

The College carefully reviewed the CARES Act and the guidance provided by the United States Department of Education specifically to determine the requirements applicable for the distribution of the available emergency resources to students. The CARES Act provided each institution with significant discretion on how to award the emergency assistance. The only statutory requirement was that the funds be used by students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Shortly after releasing these funds to educational institutions, additional guidance was provided by the Department of Education clarifying eligibility of students. Under these newly issued guidelines, “only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student has filed a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 in the HEA.”

In order to determine eligibility of students under the above guidelines, the College utilized the 2019-20 FAFSA’s submitted by current students enrolled for the spring 2020 semester to determine eligibility. International students, undocumented students, DACA students, fully online students prior to the issuance of the CARES Act, auditing students, visiting students, students receiving tuition remission, students who withdrew or took a leave of absence on or before May 27, 2020, students with unsatisfactory academic progress and students who graduated the College as of May 9, 2020 have been deemed ineligible for this emergency grant.

Students who did not submit a 2019/20 FAFSA, but who are eligible to file a FAFSA, may be eligible to receive a grant allocation, but are required to submit the attached form no later than June 17, 2020. Students completing the attestation form will be required to confirm that they meet the requirements to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA and, therefore, may be eligible for the emergency grant. Students who did not submit a completed FAFSA for 2019/20 and who now complete the application are not guaranteed the allocation set forth in this Report as the funding received by the College may have already been disbursed.

The College has committed to utilizing all of the available student emergency funds in accordance with the CARES Act and pertinent guidance.

The College’s review determined that all students have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and the disruption it has caused to their education, housing, food, technology, course materials, health/child care and other costs. Based upon its analysis, the College determined that its residential students were impacted most significantly due to COVID-19. In this regard, the abrupt closure to our campus as required by the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania left residential students with additional unplanned costs during the middle of their academic semester. Additionally, some of these costs were borne by our commuter students who had to transition to an online academic platform, including adjusting to all of the technology needs that arise with that modality. The College understands that these are much needed resources that will positively



impact their persistence towards their college degree. Therefore, the College fairly distributed these resources amongst the eligible students as follows:

Students who met the above criteria, as of May 27, 2020, will be provided the following one-time emergency grant allocation:

Resident Student: \$1,000

Commuter Student: \$700

The College has determined that such expenses also include costs related to summer study abroad trips which have not been refunded or reimbursed to eligible students as a result of cancellation by third party providers. If a student was impacted by the cancelation of a summer study abroad trip which has not been refunded or reimbursed, they are required to submit the attached application and required documentation no later than June 17, 2020. There is no guarantee of funding for such requests as the proceeds will be distributed until exhausted as set forth herein.

Grants will be paid via electronic funds transfer (where possible) or via check.

Instructions of Directions Given to Students

The following message was communicated to students via e-mail on May 21, 2020:

Subject: COVID-19 CARES Act Emergency Grant Information

Dear Students:

We are pleased to provide information regarding the distribution of Emergency Financial Aid Grants through the federal government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that provides emergency funding to higher education, a portion of which must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Cedar Crest recently received notification of the amount it would receive under this legislation and has reviewed the guidance from the U.S. Department of Education for distributing the portion of those funds mandated to go directly to eligible students, who must have filed a completed 2019/20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Under the eligibility requirements defined by the Department of Education, the following students are **ineligible** to receive emergency grants:

- International students, undocumented students, DACA students
- Fully online students prior to the issuance of the CARES Act
- Auditing students and visiting students



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- Students receiving tuition remission
- Students who withdrew or took a leave of absence on or before May 27, 2020
- Students with unsatisfactory academic progress
- Students who graduated the College as of May 9, 2020

Students who meet eligibility requirements as of May 27, 2020, will receive a one-time emergency grant in the form of direct deposit or check as follows:

- Residential Students - \$1000
- Commuter Students - \$700

Grants will be released on May 27, 2020. Students who did not submit a 2019/20 FAFSA, but who are eligible to file a FAFSA, may be eligible to receive a grant allocation, but are required to submit the attached form (“HEERF Affidavit Form”) no later than June 17, 2020.

We realize that some students may have been affected by costs related to summer study abroad trips that were canceled by third party providers. Eligible students impacted by the cancellation of a summer study abroad trip which has not been refunded or reimbursed can submit the attached application (“Summer Study Abroad Trips HEERF Application”) and required documentation no later than June 17, 2020 for possible funding.

Additionally, students who do not meet the eligibility criteria for a HEERF grant may apply for possible assistance through the College’s internal COVID-19 Emergency Fund by contacting Kyle Dailey, Dean of Students, at kyle.dailey@cedarcrest.edu.

A detailed [report](#) outlining the process for the CARES Act funds distribution can be found online at <https://www.cedarcrest.edu/healthservices/covid.shtm>. For questions regarding the CARES Act emergency grants, please contact Student Financial Services at financialservices@cedarcrest.edu.