

The University of Scranton
CARES Act Emergency Grant – Initial 45 Day Fund Report

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.” The following information is provided by The University of Scranton as required by the Department of Education (“ED”) in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act. This is our first 45-day progress report and presents information as of July 15, 2020. Additional reports will be provided every 45 days.

The information noted below is intended to not only meet the reporting requirements of the CARES Act but also provide information to our university community regarding the use of the student grant portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

- The University of Scranton signed and submitted the U.S. Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 23, 2020. The U.S. Department of Education provided The University of Scranton with an electronically signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) on May 4, 2020.
- The University of Scranton received \$1,469,389 and created the CARES Act Emergency Grant to assist students who incurred eligible expenses defined by the Act relating to the disruption of campus operations. The University of Scranton also received \$1,469,388 in CARES Act funds for expenses incurred by the Institution. The University of Scranton is therefore in compliance with the intent of the Federal CARES Act that mandates schools use 50% of their total funds received for student Emergency Grants.
- The total estimated number of undergraduate and graduate students who may have qualified for the CARES Act Emergency Grant was approximately 4,000. Potential eligibility was determined in accordance with Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Student eligibility was measured as of March 13, 2020, the last date of on-campus classroom activity.
- On May 13, 2020, University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz sent an e-mail to all undergraduate and graduate students who were enrolled on-campus for the 2020 spring term, announcing the availability of the grant and instructions on how to request funding for additional expenses attributable to the disruption of on-campus operations. Further communications about the availability of the grant were communicated in weekly updates, and a special message was added to the my.scranton login site. The recommended application submission date was May 20, 2020, and all applications received by close of business on June 4, 2020, were honored.

- Below is a review of award activity as of June 4, 2020:

Report on Recipients & Expenditures	Unduplicated Students Awarded	Grants Awarded
30 Day Report-June 4, 2020	2,018	\$1,438,884
Initial 45 Day Report-July 15, 2020	2,018	\$1,438,884

- Student eligibility for CARES Act Emergency Grant funding was determined by collecting eligible expenses on our online application. Applicants were able to report additional expenses incurred or expected to be incurred due to the disruption of on-campus operations due to COVID-19. Categories included food expense (maximum \$300), living at home expense for off-campus students who were required to continue rental payments (\$300 allowance based upon equivalent expense listed in our student budget for students living with parents), transportation expense (maximum \$2,000), technology expenses (maximum \$2,000) and miscellaneous expenses (maximum \$1,000). Each application was reviewed, and in some cases it was necessary to make professional judgments to adjust reported expenses to be more in line with all applicants' requests. Our contingency plan to reduce awards, should the amount of requests exceed our allocation, was to prorate grants based on Expected Family Contributions, EFCs, calculated from the 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA. It was not necessary to exercise this contingency plan, as all eligible expenses reported up until end of business on June 4, 2020 were honored.
- Grants were disbursed directly to student accounts and immediately refunded to students by direct deposit to their bank accounts, or delivery of a check to their permanent address.
- Additional guidance was included in a Frequently Asked Questions, FAQs, posted on our COVID-19 site that is easily accessible for our students through the my.scranton home page, and our through our COVID-19 site viewable to the public at Scranton.edu.

Any questions about this report should be directed to the Financial Aid Office at finaid@scranton.edu listing CARES Act in the subject of the e-mail.