

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (CRRSA) Report – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

May 10, 2021

Douglas Education Center, OPEID: 02068300 received funds under Section 314(a)(4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) (award or grant) by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) are governed by section 314 of the CRRSAA. This Fund Report applies to the funds designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

The institution appreciates that Congress and the President have made these critical funds available for eligible students who have expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic. We take receipt of these federal funds seriously and are distributing them in accordance with guidance.

The institution is making the below information available for transparency purposes and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education’s (“Department”) Electronic Announcement of May 6, 2020.¹ For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact **Amanda Phillips, Executive Director of Operations**, at aphillips@dec.edu.

1. The institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The institution has used, or intends to use 100% of these funds for financial aid grants 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 is **\$213,934**.
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants designated for students under Section 314(a)(4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) as of the date of this Fund Report is **\$213,934**.
4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs Section 314(a)(4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) is **138, which includes those that may self-certify**.
5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **0** as awarding has not yet occurred.
6. The methods used by the institution to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 314(a)(4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) are provided at **Attachment A**.

¹ See: <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants are provided at **Attachment B**.

Attachment A

Awarding Grants

Douglas Education Center's administration has reviewed numerous methods for distributing the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act HEERF II (CRRSA). Recognizing most students have been impacted by the national disaster, awarding metrics have been determined for all students.

The institution has developed 6 levels of awarding. The first is for students with pell eligible efc's in degree programs, the second for students with pell eligible efc's in certificate or diploma programs, the third is for students with efc's above pell eligibility in degree programs, the fourth is for students with efc's above pell eligibility in certificate or diploma programs, the fifth is for students in degree programs who did not file a FAFSA and self-certify eligibility and the sixth is for students in certificate or diploma programs who did not file a FAFSA and self-certify eligibility.

Calculating Grant Amounts

Douglas Education Center's allocation for student grants under the CRRSA Act, 2021 is \$213,934.

The grant award amount is dependent upon the number of eligible applicants or:

X number of eligible applicants X award level

Level 1 award \$2,200.00

Level 2 award \$2,000.00

Level 3 award \$1,300.00

Level 4 award \$1,100.00

Level 5 award \$625.00

Level 6 award \$520.00

DEC is willing to contribute an additional \$51.00 from its own resources should each eligible student apply and be awarded thus bringing the total award potential to \$213,985.00.

Attachment B

Emergency Financial Aid Grants

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The \$2.2 trillion economic aid package will provide financial assistance to individuals, families and businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The CARES Act, which establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund directs institutions of higher education to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Student Eligibility

Eligibility criteria for this grant award includes:

Institutions may award student grants for:

any component of their cost of attendance. Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as:

- tuition
 - food
 - housing
 - health care (including mental)
 - child care
- The applicant was enrolled and is actively engaged in coursework as of August 4, 2021.
 - The applicant must have begun classes on or before August 4, 2021
 - The applicant has a valid FAFSA on file with DEC and is eligible for Federal Student Aid OR certifies the following criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act, including but not limited to the following:
 - The applicant has a valid social security number
 - The applicant is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
 - The applicant possesses a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting
 - The applicant is not enrolled in an elementary or secondary school
 - The applicant has completed registration with Selective Service (male students)
 - The applicant is maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
 - The applicant does not owe a refund on a federal grant(s)
 - The applicant is not in default on a federal student loan
 - The applicant has not been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere or guilty to, a crime involving fraud in obtaining federal student aid funds
 - The applicant has not been convicted of any offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance for conduct that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving any grant, loan, or work assistance

Application Process

Douglas Education Center will provide students with an application along with instructions. Applicants must complete and sign the application and conditions.

Applicants must attest they will use the Emergency Financial Aid Grant for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

The deadline for submitting an Emergency Financial Aid Grant application is August 27, 2021. Applications received after this date will not be considered when awarding grants.

Applications will be submitted to the Financial Aid Office who will track the applications and review the applications for eligibility and awarding. The Financial Aid Office will complete outreach efforts, in advance of the deadline, to all students that have not already applied.

Awarding Grants

Douglas Education Center's administration has reviewed numerous methods for distributing the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. Recognizing most students have been impacted by the national disaster, awarding metrics have been determined for all students.

The institution has developed 6 levels of awarding. The first is for students with pell eligible efc's in degree programs, the second for students with pell eligible efc's in certificate or diploma programs, the third is for students with efc's above pell eligibility in degree programs, the fourth is for students with efc's above pell eligibility in certificate or diploma programs, the fifth is for students in degree programs who did not file a FAFSA and self-certify eligibility and the sixth is for students in certificate or diploma programs who did not file a FAFSA and self-certify eligibility.

After determining the number of eligible applicants, the Financial Aid Office will award grants to all eligible students indicating they incurred expenses and need financial assistance in meeting allowable expenses.

Calculating Grant Amounts

Douglas Education Center's allocation for student grants under the CARES Act is \$213,934.00.

The minimum Emergency Financial Aid Grant is \$520.00. The maximum grant is dependent upon the number of eligible applicants, but will not exceed \$2,200.

Disbursing Grant Funds

The grant will be distributed to eligible applicants as soon as possible following the deadline and will be based on the awarding levels listed above.

Grant funds will be distributed in one disbursement via check. The check will be sent to the address listed on the application.

Additional monies or remaining funds from non-negotiated checks will be calculated and reviewed. Any subsequent or additional disbursements will be decided on at a later date, but no later than 3/1/2022.