

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Memo

To: Presidents
Cc: State Regents
Higher Education Network
From: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2020
Subject: Distribution of CARES Act Funding for Emergency Student Financial Aid Relief

Attached please find a press release issued this afternoon announcing that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will distribute approximately \$6 billion of the \$13.9 billion available in stimulus funding for higher education through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) ACT immediately to colleges and universities to provide direct emergency cash grants to college students whose lives and educations have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak (**Attachment 1**).

According to the press release colleges and universities are required to utilize the \$6.28 billion made available today to provide cash grants to students for expenses related to disruptions to their educations due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare.

In order to access the funds, **the U.S. Department of Education must receive a signed certification from the higher education institution affirming they will distribute the funds in accordance with applicable law.** The college or university will then determine which students will receive the cash grants. All institutions must sign and return the Certificate of Funding and Agreement via: grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>), acknowledging the terms and conditions of the funding. A PDF of this certification has been included with this memo as an attachment (**Attachment 2**). **After the Department has received the certificate, institutions may draw down their emergency assistance funds using the Department's G5 system.**

Also attached is a letter from Secretary DeVos to college and university presidents regarding the distribution of these funds (**Attachment 3**). According to Secretary DeVos' cover letter to college and university presidents, "the CARES Act provides institutions with significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students. This means that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the

funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need. The only statutory requirement is that the funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).”

Finally, please find attached the “Allocations for Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act” as produced by the U.S. Department of Education for your review ([Attachment 4](#)).

Additional information regarding the allocation of funds for emergency student financial aid grants can be found online at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please forward them to Kylie Smith, Vice Chancellor for Administration, at ksmith@osrhe.edu and she will coordinate responses.

Thank you.

Glen

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