

CARES Act Emergency Student Grant Report

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the federal government is providing funding to higher education institutions to alleviate the impact of campus disruptions caused by Coronavirus. Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans (LSUHSC) signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to 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 to students. The total CARES Act allocation to LSUHSC is \$1,391,236. Therefore, LSUHSC must utilize \$695,618 to fund grants to students.

LSUHS sent an initial announcement of CARES Act Emergency Student Grants to all enrolled students via mass email on 4/23/20. The notification explained that the funds are for costs incurred as a result of pandemic related campus disruptions, and provided examples of the type of costs which could be applicable. The announcement also stipulated that only students meeting the general eligibility requirements for federal (Title IV) student financial aid are eligible for funding, and that LSUHSC will determine Title IV eligibility via review of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) results. Students who had not already done so were given a one week deadline to file the FAFSA if they wished to be considered for Emergency Student Grant funding.

On 5/6/20 LSUHSC activated an online application for CARES Emergency Student Grant funding and sent the application link to students via mass email. On the application students were instructed to identify their 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, healthcare, and child care). The application deadline was 5/16/20. Student Financial Aid Office staff reviewed the 1054 applicants completing the online form by the deadline date, determining that 1018 meet the general eligibility requirements for Title IV aid and are therefore eligible for Emergency Student Grant funding.

To optimize assistance to all eligible students requesting CARES Act Emergency Student Grant funding LSUHSC will utilize both the mandated student grant funding and a portion of the institutional discretionary funding to deliver equal \$1000 grants to all eligible applicants. Student Financial Aid Office staff will begin posting the grants 5/22/20; funds will be delivered through the Bursar Operations Office the week of 5/25/20.