

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary of Education) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for 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).

Pursuant to the Office of Postsecondary Education’s May 6, 2020 directive titled “Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students,” UT Southwestern Medical Center reports the following information on its primary website:

1. UT Southwestern Medical Center signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and 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.
2. UT Southwestern Medical Center will receive \$301,303 pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of 9/28/2020 - \$162,969
  - We have \$138,334 remaining, which will be used for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to PA students who qualify for the grants and whose graduation will be delayed as a result of disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.
4. Estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act - 1,140
5. Total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act (as of 9/28/2020) - 203
6. UT Southwestern Medical Center created an application for students in order to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

## [CARES Act Financial Assistance Request](#)

[Note: The CARES Act Financial Assistance Request is currently closed. Should more funding become available we will notify students and reopen the application.]

In addition, UT Southwestern identified two small cohorts of students who will receive CARES funding without an application on file. The first group received a small grant for the cost of an online program required by the Dean due to the shift to online learning. Second, in our Physician Assistant Studies program one cohort of students' graduation will be delayed due to campus disruptions related to COVID-19. Each eligible student in that cohort will receive the same amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grant funding to cover a percentage of their estimated off-campus living expenses for the additional weeks they will be in school due to the pandemic. The amount of the grants was calculated based on 1) the estimated cost-of-living expenses in the Cost of Attendance as calculated by the Office of Student Financial Aid for Title IV purposes and 2) available CARES Act funding for Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

7. UT Southwestern Medical Center provided the following instructions, directions, and guidance to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Email sent 5/20/20 advising students of HEERF grant availability:

### **Am I eligible to apply for a CARES Act grant?**

- At this time, international students and DACA students are not eligible for CARES Act student grant funds. If you are in these categories and have an emergency need related to COVID, we encourage you to visit our [Emergency Resources](#) page and review the Meyerson Emergency Fund application requirements.
- If you have not filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but you meet the [basic Federal aid criteria](#), you can [file a FAFSA now](#) to be eligible to apply for CARES grant funding.
- If your emergency expense is not related to campus disruptions, you may want to review our [Emergency Resources](#) page for assistance.

In accordance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Section 18004, Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), the Office of Student Financial Aid would like to inform you of the availability of emergency grant funding for students financially impacted by the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The CARES Act (HEERF) was signed into law on March 27, 2020 and provides emergency financial aid grants to students who meet certain criteria.

In order to be eligible for CARES Act (HEERF) emergency financial aid grants, you must meet the following requirements:

- be enrolled in a degree program at UT Southwestern,

- complete a valid 2020-2021 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), and
- have expenses directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Categories of expenses may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Additional technology purchases related to the transition from in-person to online coursework (i.e. printer, webcam, router, transcription software)
  - Expenses related to unexpected changes in housing arrangements due to the early return from, or cancellation/postponement of, rotations or clinical experiences
  - Expenses related to delays of graduation dates
  - Transportation & child care costs
  - Expenses related to changes in examination dates (travel, study aids, delays in testing dates, etc.)

**If you believe you qualify, please fill out the [CARES Act Financial Assistance Request](#) form.**

Receipt of a CARES Act grant does not impact your financial aid, either in the current semester or in the future. This is a grant – not a loan – and does not need to be repaid. The IRS has stated that funds received through this program are not taxable income.

Have questions or need further assistance? Visit our [Financial Aid FAQs](#) page or contact us.

Office of Student Financial Aid  
[www.utsouthwestern.edu/financialaid](http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/financialaid)  
[financialaid@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:financialaid@utsouthwestern.edu)  
214-648-3611

Language in email sent to students receiving funding from HEERF:

<Pref Name>,

Thank you for submitting your application for CARES Act Financial Assistance. After reviewing the information in your application, we have determined you qualify for a CARES Act grant in the amount of <Approved Amt>.

You will see these funds credit to your UT Southwestern student account in the next 48 hours. Then, if you have signed up for Direct Deposit, the funds will be sent to your designated bank account within the next 3-5 business days. If you do not have Direct Deposit, a check will be mailed to the address on file with in 5-7 business days.

CARES Act grants are intended to cover/ reimburse students for expenses incurred due to the campus disruptions related to the coronavirus. The CARES Act grant will not pay any outstanding balance on your student account. Receipt of a CARES Act grant does not impact your financial aid, either in the current semester or in the future. This is a grant- not a loan- and does not need to be repaid. The IRS has stated that funds received through this program are not taxable income.

To view your student portal, please visit [Student Center](#) and log in using your confidential username and password. If you have forgotten your username or password, please email the [Help Desk](#).

Have questions or need further assistance? Visit our [Financial Aid FAQs](#) page or contact us.

Office of Student Financial Aid  
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[financialaid@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:financialaid@utsouthwestern.edu)  
214-648-3611