The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Reporting for Student Portion of the CARES Act Emergency Relief Fund

Report for Aug. 23, 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") of March 27, 2020, directs institutions receiving CARES Act funding to submit a report to the Secretary of Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund ("HEERF").

The CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50% of the HEERF allocation received from 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).

On April 9, 2020, the Department published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a <u>letter</u> from Secretary Betsy DeVos, a form <u>Certification and Agreement</u> for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of <u>institutional allocations</u>. On May 6, the department published <u>further guidance and requirements</u> for disclosing the following information.

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

De Anza College signed and submitted the Certification and Agreement form on April 17, 2020.

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.

On April 25, 2020, De Anza College received \$3,617,629 to be distributed as Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

As of Aug. 23, 2020: \$1,883,712

As of July 9, 2020: \$1,853,712 As of May 21, 2020: \$74,570

4. The 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.

While HEERF student share dollars are not considered Title IV financial aid, the Department of Education's April 21, 2020 guidance states that students must meet requirements in Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to receive HEERF emergency grants. Based on the number of students we have awarded Title IV aid, the total number of students potentially eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants is approximately 10,250.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

As of Aug. 23, 2020: 3,091 As of July 9, 2020: 3,029 As of May 21, 2020: 128

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Since June 1, the college has determined eligibility for Emergency Financial Aid Grants based on need as determined by eligibility for the Pell Grant, with the award based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) determined by the FAFSA, as follows:

- Eligible students with an EFC of 0-\$2,000 received \$750
- Eligible students with an EFC of \$2,000-\$4,000 received \$500
- Eligible students with an EFC of \$4,000-\$5,200 received \$250

No awards have been made to students who are attending less than half time or students who were not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements before the coronavirus outbreak.

Before June 1, the college used the following criteria to determine eligibility for 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).

- Submitted the college's Emergency Cash Grant Application
- Completed FAFSA application and met Title IV eligibility under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965:

- **o** U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Registered with Selective Service (males only)
- Valid Social Security number
- High school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved home school setting
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an approved degree or certificate program
- Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school
- Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Submit Statement of Educational Purpose (if applicable)
- Not be in default on Title IV grants or loans
- Actively enrolled at the time of application and disbursement in a minimum of 0.5 units

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

De Anza College took the following steps to ensure compliance in awarding and disbursing CARES Act Emergency Funds to students

- April 24, 2020: The college updated the Emergency Cash Grants application to be in line with CARES Act requirements. The application is posted on the college website and linked from other locations on the website.
- May 4, 2020: The college released its first disbursement to students, with additional disbursements following on a weekly basis
- Students are notified by email when funds are disbursed or if an application is denied.