

CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act provides funding to colleges and universities through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”).

Texas A&M University San Antonio signed and returned to the Department of Education the Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act and 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.

GRANTS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS UNDER SECTION 18004(A)(1) OF THE CARES ACT	AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
Total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students	\$2,806,713
Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act	\$2,106,113
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	5,890
Total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act	2546

Texas A&M University San Antonio used the following method to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:
Texas A&M University-San Antonio has taken an in-depth look at our student population and identified those in the most need due to the disruptions from COVID-19. These disruptions include but are not limited to, the change to online learning, reconfiguration of faculty teaching, student relocation, health concerns, as well as the overall environment changes to our community such as school closures causing child care issues. As a result, leadership has implemented the use of an Emergency Funds Application process which includes the question of FAFSA completion to help identify eligibility. We have implemented a three tier system to determine award amounts to be distributed directly to students using the following criteria.
1. Low: \$500.00- \$1000.00 (Minor disruption, technology needs for online classes, course materials)
2. Medium: \$1001.00-\$2000.00 (Disruption in living expenses, hour cut at job, medical expense increase)
3. High: \$2001.00-\$8000.00 (Loss of job, family loss of job, major expenses in medical, major expenses in housing)
4. No documentation defaults to: \$500
In effort to further reduce financial barriers for students, these students will receive \$250 cash award to assist with the cost of books and to further stabilize retention of students.