

University of Saint Joseph

Coronavirus Approach

Response to the Needs of Students for Financial Support to Pay Housing and Food Costs

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) is required to provide regular reporting to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on the use of funds authorized by the CARES Act. Funds received by USJ under the CARES Act were authorized by Congress and signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020. The information noted below is intended to meet the reporting requirements of the CARES Act.

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) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund). 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 childcare). On April 9, 2020, the ED published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a [letter](#) from Secretary Betsy DeVos, a form [Certification and Agreement](#) for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of [institutional allocations under 18004\(a\)\(1\)](#).

The Certification and Agreement directs each institution applying for HEERF funds to comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and submit an initial report (the “30-day Fund Report”) to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution’s Certification and Agreement to ED. Each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution’s primary website. The following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter:

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 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.*
 - USJ signed and submitted the U.S. Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 11, 2020. The U.S. DOE provided USJ with an electronically signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) on April 27, 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.*
 - USJ received \$579,171.50 for 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).*
 - \$579,176.10 (USJ awarded slightly more (\$4.60) CARE grants than our allocation of 579,171.50)
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.*
 - 1,806 Title IV Eligible USJ Students
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.*
 - 513 students received a direct cash grant.
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.*
 - USJ provided grants to students who incurred unexpected housing and food costs as a result of the closing of the residence halls and dining facility as mandated by the State of Connecticut on March 23, 2020. An estimate of the need for assistance was based on the remaining days of room and board in the semester. In total \$543,026.10 was distributed to 257 students for food and housing costs.
 - USJ provided grants to PELL eligible students including commuting students to offset costs for course materials, parking, or technology as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. A total of \$36,150 was distributed to 256 PELL eligible students.
 - USJ provided grants through Catherine's Funds, an emergency student needs fund, for eligible students who requested assistance with costs related to COVID disruptions.

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

- Each student who received a cash grant was sent a letter that included the following language:

The funding for this grant is made possible through the Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. The grant is approximately the amount of unused days of room and/or dining plans. This amount is our best estimation of the unexpected costs you are incurring. If you have any questions, please contact Dina Lukina, Controller, at dlukina@usj.edu.

I hope that you are staying well. As a reminder, if you have unexpected additional needs due to the coronavirus pandemic, USJ may be able to assist you through a USJ Catherine's Fund grant. Please contact Stacey Downing, Director of Student Financial Services, at financialaid@usj.edu for help with the USJ Catherine's Fund process.