



# The CARES Act and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

On March 27, 2020, the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The CARES Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). A portion of HEERF funds must go directly to eligible students in the form of emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 crisis (“HEERF Student Share Grant Funds”).

**The following updated information is provided by DePaul University (the “University”) as required by the Department of Education (“ED”) in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act.** This is the University’s 45-day progress report and presents information as of July 10, 2020.

## **1 Certification and Agreement**

On April 21, 2020, the University signed and returned to ED the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the University 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 Amounts to be Received**

In accordance with the Certification and Agreement, the University is eligible to receive up to \$7,186,610 in HEERF Student Share Grant Funds.

## **3 Amounts Distributed to Date**

As of the date of July 10, 2020, the University has distributed \$3,398,500 in HEERF Student Share Grant Funds

## **4 Estimated Number of Eligible Students**

As of March 13, 2020, the University estimates that approximately 15,500 students, including students enrolled in associate’s, bachelor’s, graduate, and professional programs, may be eligible for the HEERF Student Share Grant Funds. This represents approximately 70% of the University’s total enrollment of approximately 22,000 students.

## **5 Number of Students Who Have Received HEERF Student Share Grants**

As of the July 10, 2020, 6,797 students have received HEERF Student Share Grants.

## **6 Method of Determining Which Students Would Receive HEERF Student Share Grants**

DePaul University referenced the Department of Education guidelines to determine which students would be eligible to receive HEERF Student Share Grants. Student eligibility was based on the following criteria:

1. The student was enrolled on March 13, 2020, in what were intended to be face-to-face classes.
2. The student incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.
3. The student was eligible under section 484 of the Higher Education Act to receive title IV aid at the time of the disruption or shortly thereafter.



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In an effort to implement the HEERF provisions in an efficient, effective and expedient way, the University will distribute an equal amount of funds (\$500.00) to each eligible student who certify that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption in campus operations due to the coronavirus. The University will continue its outreach to eligible students until all HEERF Student Share Grant Funds are distributed.

### **7 Instructions, Directions and Guidance Regarding HEERF Student Share Grants**

To receive a HEERF Student Share Grant, eligible students must complete an online application certifying that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption in campus operations due to the coronavirus. They must also confirm their acceptance of the grant (eligible students may choose to forego the HEERF Student Share Grant and make the funds available for other eligible students). Students who accept the grant will receive an additional communication to clarify the method in which they would like to take delivery of the funds, either through an ACH disbursement or a paper check. The University, through a third party service provider, disburses HEERF student share grant funds weekly.

For additional information regarding CARES Act Funds, please visit DePaul University's CARES Act FAQ page.