



University of Maine at Farmington

CARES Act Funding Under Section 18004(a)(1) – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 50% for Student Aid

For the Quarter Ended
September 30, 2020

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education

Award Number: P425E202234

Award Amount: \$1,079,026

Report Period: 04/27/2020 thru 09/30/2020

Report Date: 10/09/2020

Source and Purpose of Funds

The University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) received the above award from the CARES Act passed by Congress on March 27, 2020 to provide emergency financial aid grants to eligible students for their expenses related to the disruption of our campus operations due to coronavirus.

On April 15, 2020, UMF submitted the required Certification and Agreement (link) to the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE) committing to use these funds to provide emergency aid directly to our eligible students.

Eligibility Requirements

Consistent with the guidance from the U.S. DOE, eligible students include all students who were enrolled at UMF on March 13, 2020 and are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), with the following exceptions:

- Non-degree seeking students
- International or DACA students
- Employees receiving UMS Employee Tuition benefits
- Early College students
- Students enrolled in exclusively online programs as of March 13, 2020.

Students who did not have a FAFSA on file with the university were able to complete a self-certification form, attesting under the penalty of perjury to meeting the requirements of Section 484 of the HEA.

Distribution Plan

Consistent with the other institutions within the University of Maine System, of which UMF is a part, and in acknowledgment that every one of our students experienced disruption when COVID-19 forced all courses to be transitioned to online delivery, UMF automatically distributed 85% percent of these funds to all eligible students. Award amounts were tiered as follows based on the number of credit hours in which the student was enrolled as of March 13, 2020:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Undergraduate Students | |
| 12 + credits | \$630 |
| 6-11.99 credits | \$420 |
| 0.1-5.99 credits | \$210 |
| | |
| Graduate Students | |
| 9 + credits | \$630 |
| 4-8.99 credits | \$420 |
| 0.1-3.99 credits | \$210 |

The remaining 15% percent of the CARES student aid is being made available by application to eligible students who self-identify with additional need as a result of the disruption to campus operations caused by COVID-19.

In some cases, emergency funds may have been supplemented with a portion of CARES dollars intended for institutional relief.

All distributions to students will be made via direct deposit or check. Because the IRS considers the CARES student funds as a “qualified disaster relief payment,” they are not considered taxable income.

Disbursements To-Date

| Distribution Type | Number of Eligible Students | Number of Students To Which Aid Has Been Distributed | Total Amount of Aid That Has Been Distributed | Amount of Funds Remaining for Disbursement |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Automatic | 1,336 | 1,336 | \$819,420 | 0 |
| Self Certify | 74* <i>(as of 6.30.2020)</i> | 74 | \$33,810 | 0 |
| Application (for the 15%) | 1,400 | 102 | \$169,227 | \$56,569 |
| Total | | | \$1,022,457 | \$56,569 |

*At the time of our 30-day report, we anticipated a total of 196 would be eligible for across the board disbursement if they self-certified that they were eligible for Title IV funds. As of June 15, 2020, the self-certification deadline, the actual number of eligible students was 74. We have added the \$48,250 of unspent across the board funds to the “application” line.

Communications to Students

No additional communications have occurred from the University of Maine System or UMF to students related to the students concerning the emergency financial aid grants provided through the CARES Act since the 30-day report.

<https://www.umf.maine.edu/about/office-of-the-president/umf-coronavirus-covid-19-communications/>