

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Expenditure Report Spring 2020 – Spring 2021 (3.31.2021)

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Students cannot apply for assistance directly from the U.S. Department of Education but should contact their institutions for further information and guidance. Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant. Accordingly, 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 (link) 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.
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.

| FUND | COLLEGE | FUND CODE | ALLOCATION | ALLOC % | AVAILABLE ALLOC |
|-------------|---------|-----------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| HCAR | SAC | HCAR11 | \$ 3,824,127.00 | 100.0% | \$ 3,824,127.00 |
| | SPC | HCAR12 | \$ 1,713,753.00 | 100.0% | \$ 1,713,753.00 |
| | PAC | HCAR13 | \$ 1,620,472.00 | 100.0% | \$ 1,620,472.00 |
| | NVC | HCAR14 | \$ 3,463,310.00 | 100.0% | \$ 3,463,310.00 |
| | NLC | HCAR15 | \$ 671,722.00 | 100.0% | \$ 671,722.00 |
| | TTL/AVG | | \$ 11,293,384.00 | | \$ 11,293,384.00 |

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) (See chart below – all figures provided are cumulative totals).

| College | Timeframe | Fund Code | Total Amount Disbursed |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| San Antonio College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR11 | \$ 3,824,126.22 |
| St. Philip's College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR12 | \$ 1,713,753.00 |
| Palo Alto College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR13 | \$ 1,620,472.00 |
| Northwest Vista College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR14 | \$ 3,330,249.00 |
| Northeast Lakeview College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR15 | \$ 671,722.00 |

Student Advocacy Center



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
Palo Alto College



210-486-3125

4.The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act (See chart below – all figures provided are cumulative totals).

| College | Timeframe | # of Students Paid |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| San Antonio College | Spring 2020- Spring 2021 03/31/2021 | 12,027 |
| St. Philip's College | Spring 2020- Spring 2021 03/31/2021 | 5,137 |
| Palo Alto College | Spring 2020- Spring 2021 03/31/2021 | 5,402 |
| Northwest Vista College | Spring 2020- Spring 2021 03/31/2021 | 9,365 |
| Northeast Lakeview College | Spring 2020- Spring 2021 03/31/2021 | 3,448 |

General Statistics of CARES Act Recipients

Palo Alto College

| Gender | Male | Female |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| | 855 | 1918 |
| Average Age of Recipients | 24.28 | |
| Student Type | Count | |
| Concurrent HS Student | < 10 | |
| Continuing | 2720 | |
| Early College High School | < 10 | |
| New First Time | < 10 | |
| Returning, Former | 33 | |
| Transfer | 11 | |
| Transient | < 10 | |
| Count of New Ethnicity | Count | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 2434 | |
| Not Disclosed | 0 | |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 339 | |
| Residency | Count | |
| In District | 2464 | |
| Military Dep-TX Out of Dist | < 10 | |
| Military TX- Out of Dist | < 10 | |
| Military TX-In District | < 10 | |
| Out of District-In State | 287 | |
| Out of State | 14 | |
| TX Res HB 1403 s2 In District | < 10 | |
| TX Res HB 1403 s4 In Dist | < 10 | |
| Amount Paid | | |
| Number of Students | 2773 | |
| Total | \$1,620,472 | |

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 (See chart below – all figures provided are cumulative totals).

| College | Timeframe | Fund Code | # of Students Paid |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| San Antonio College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR11 | 6,054 |
| St. Philip's College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR12 | 2,740 |
| Palo Alto College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR13 | 2,773 |
| Northwest Vista College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR14 | 4,464 |
| Northeast Lakeview College | 05/04/2020- 03/31/2021 11:59 PM | HCAR15 | 1,422 |

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.

Institutional Methodology:

Palo Alto College developed the following methodology to determine which students are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and the amount students are to receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:

Palo Alto College's approach has been revised several times due to various instructions from the Department of Education and the late notice that students had to be Title IV eligible to receive CARES Act funding. Because this is "Emergency Aid" we were originally going to have the front line to receiving funds be through our Advocacy Center, where students could be case managed and provided with additional tools to get through the COVID-19 event. When we were notified that students had to be Title IV eligible, we had to shift so that students would apply through the Student Financial Aid Office for funding after their Title IV eligibility was confirmed.

An electronic application was developed that students would complete to request funds. Based on Department of Education guidance, documentation of an expense was requested but was not mandatory. On the application, students requested funds and also signed a certification stating that the funds were for expenses that were the result of a disruption in their education due to the COVID-19 event.

The application was placed online in a pre-fillable pdf that was submitted electronically to a priorityaid@alamo.edu inbox where Financial Aid staff began to work them from the queue in mostly date order.

Working collaboratively with the Advocacy Centers a rubric was developed of what an appropriate award would be for different categories of expenses. The rubric was to be our guide for awarding decisions. While we received a significant number of applications after it was made available on May 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., the volume was not as high as expected and students were not asking for much assistance. It was noted that they were taking a very short-term view of their need. In some cases, we rounded up their request to be the amount we had determined on our rubric. Palo Alto College utilizes the BANNER Student Information System. CARES Act awards to students are disbursed to the student

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account and then refunded directly to the students. The entire CARES Act award is passed through to the student, with no existing balances impacting the refund.

Information to Students on Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants. All information provided to students is found on our website at alamo.edu/studentemergencyaid.

Important Documents and Links

- [Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)
- Federal Student Aid: Emergency Aid Requirements and Steps to Apply