

Franklin & Marshall College 45-Day Report
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
August 31, 2020

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

This report provides further details on the first award Franklin & Marshall received under the HEERF, specifically, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E203420, consistent with the reporting requirements issued on May 6, 2020 by the Office of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education.

In distributing these funds, the College has followed, and will follow, the instructions and guidance provided by the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, and the Certification and Agreement completed by the College. The current guidance and instructions provide institutions with discretion to develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, subject to certain limitations on student eligibility and expense eligibility. Information on that process is provided below, as is a link for further information.

CERTIFICATION

Franklin & Marshall signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 10, 2020. Franklin & Marshall will 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.

AWARD

Franklin & Marshall will receive a total of \$1,692,121 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF. At least \$846,061 will be distributed directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the Coronavirus.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

As of August 28, 2020, Franklin & Marshall has distributed \$685,991.71 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to 657 students. The disbursement of grants began June 10, 2020.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Franklin & Marshall has an estimate of 1934 students 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.

METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY

The College distributed the CARES Act emergency grants via an online application process. The application required each applicant to attest that they had incurred eligible expenses. Eligible expenses, per the CARES Act, are “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, healthcare, and child-care expenses).” Applications were processed in the order in which they were received. Students who met all student and expense eligibility requirements received grants up to \$3000.

INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS

Instructions, directions, guidance and the application provided to students were disseminated in the context of an application form. Two rounds of applications were accepted; the second round was open only to students who had not applied in the first round or who had made errors in that submission.

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