



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
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U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 30-Day Report Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

As provided by the U.S. Department of Education (Department²), Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs universities in receipt of federal funding under Section 18004 of the CARES Act to submit a report to the Secretary of Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). 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 child care).

Reporting for the seven enumerated criteria provided on May 6, 2020 by the Office of Postsecondary Education is as follows:

- Florida A&M University signed the Certification and Agreement on April 9, 2020 and returned to the U.S. Department of Education on April 10, 2020 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.
- Florida A&M University received **\$6,525,663** on April 20, 2020 from the Department pursuant to the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for disbursement in accordance with Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
- The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **May 8, 2020** is **\$5,754,109**.
- It is estimated that **7,400** students at Florida A&M University are 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.
- To date, **6,629** students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant as provided under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
- The University implemented a tier awarding methodology to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The basis of this determination is in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education recommendation of providing emergency grants to students with the greatest financial need. The Pell eligible students who may be most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic were the first priority. The University will then focus on our non-Pell eligible, Graduate and Professional students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) up to \$15,000.
- Guidance was provided to students via the university COVID-19 Coronavirus Alerts webpage, the Office of Financial Aid webpage and the University Virtual Student Town Hall meeting. In addition, an email was sent via FAMU Info with a link to the CARES Emergency Grant Spending Plan.

As provided by the Office of Postsecondary Education on May 6, 2020, Institutions that accurately report the information listed above will meet the initial reporting requirements.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Spending Plan for CARES Emergency Funding
Office of Financial Aid
April 17, 2020

The Department of Education (DOE) has allocated **\$6,525,663** to Florida A&M University (University) in emergency grant funding to assist students with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus COVID-19. Expenses include, but are not limited to: food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care. The grant should not be applied to any institutional charges but distributed to students directly.

Based on the Funding Certification and Agreement, the University should take into consideration a student's emergency situation and may exercise professional judgment in making award determinations. These funds will be available to all students enrolled in an eligible degree seeking program and are not considered toward expected family contributions or federal financial aid outlined in Title IV of the HEA. The definition of "all students" is inclusive to the student body as follows:

- Students with a valid 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that meet Title IV funding eligibility;
- Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional students; and
- Students meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress.

The University must make students aware of the available emergency funding and is responsible for reporting back to the department 30 days from the date of the Certification and Agreement and every 45 days thereafter. This will be communicated via FAMU Info, Financial Aid website and the University homepage-COVID update.

Methodology Justification

To assist in allocating the emergency funds, the university has implemented a tier awarding methodology. The basis of this determination is in accordance with the Department of Education's recommendation of granting funds to student with the greatest financial need. The Pell eligible students who may be most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic will be our first priority. The University will then focus on our non-Pell eligible, Graduate and Professional students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) up to 15,000. In addition, the University has reserved \$750,000 in emergency funding for those students and families that have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. **All students, regardless of EFC, are eligible to apply for these additional funds.** Students must submit the application directly to the Office of Financial Aid. Based on the demographics of our students, the Office of Financial Aid will award as follows:

CARES Act Allocation 6,525,663

Assign awards based on group percentages - Total Budget: 5,775,663

One-time payment – Directly to Student

- 1. Pell eligible undergraduates –Approx. 4,459 students 72 percent EFC 0-5576**
 - \$4,155,788 – YTD Disbursed
 - Award amount - \$932

- 2. Non-Pell eligible undergraduates – Approx. 921 students 14 percent EFC 0 - 15000**
 - \$790,218 – YTD Disbursed
 - Award amount - \$858

- 3. Graduate/Professional – Approx. 1249 students 14 percent EFC 0 - 15000**
 - \$808,103 – YTD Disbursed
 - Award amount - \$647

Allocated Budget: Reserved \$750,000

Maximum population – up to 750 students

The amount of emergency funding will be based on the implementation of the University's COVID-19 Emergency Student Assistance application. This application allows students to apply regardless of EFC for emergency funding based on their individual circumstances. The award will be a one-time distribution of \$1,000.

Distance Learning, International and DACA students are not eligible to apply for the CARES Emergency funds.