

## **HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND REPORTING CARES ACT EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS TO STUDENTS REPORT for Quarter 3 - 2020**

The U. S. Department of Education determines the process by which institutions may directly report required data for CARES Act Grant expenditures, and has directed institutions to provide the information below to the public.

**An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement 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.**

Weatherford College signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 15, 2020.

**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.**

Weatherford College has received \$1,273,648.

**The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).**

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2020, Weatherford College dispersed \$827,065 to students.

**The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in the 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.**

The College estimates that there are 1,500 students eligible to participate in these programs.

**The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.**

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2020, Weatherford College awarded funds to 1,212 students.

**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.**

Weatherford College created an online application for students to use to apply for funds and emailed the web link to all currently enrolled students except those enrolled in dual credit or early admission programs. The application was based on the agreement with the CARES Act certification to only use funds for expenses related to the COVID-19 disruption of campus operations. The types of student expenses that will be reimbursed through the CARES Act funds include food, housing, course materials for moving to online instruction, technology, health care and child-care. Initial grant amounts range from \$100 to \$2,000 per student.

The method 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 is:

1. The student completes an application for the funds stating the amount they need and the reason for the need. The application contains the following information for the student to fill out and/or select.
  - a. Student must select reason for requesting emergency funds:
    - i. Additional expenses as a result of the Coronavirus campus disruptions
  - b. Student can select multiple options for requesting emergency funds are needed:
    - i. Cover housing costs
    - ii. Cover food costs
    - iii. Cover course material costs
    - iv. Cover technology costs
    - v. Cover health care costs
    - vi. Cover child care costs
  - c. The dollar amounts will be determined based on the application by the student not to exceed \$2,000.
2. The following criteria will be used to identify eligible students:
  - a. Student has completed the FAFSA for 19-20 or 20-21.
  - b. The application is then reviewed for Title IV eligibility.
  - c. Student is enrolled in WC classes for Spring 2020
  - d. Student is meeting SAP (Meet, Probation, or Warning)
  - e. Students considered Title IV eligible and who were enrolled as of March 13, 2020 and completed the spring 2020 semester are eligible.
3. Students who apply for the Cares ACT grant and do not qualify will be emailed or called via phone.
4. Reports will be generated weekly and provided to student accounts with Student ID, Name, and dollar amount.
5. Refunds to students to be disbursed weekly.

**Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

Each student considered eligible was sent an e-mail explaining that the student may qualify for a grant from the CARES Act. Included in the e-mail was a link to the College's application.

**Below are the contents of the email that was sent to all eligible students:**

Dear Weatherford College student,

The United States Department of Education has awarded Weatherford College grant money to help students who are experiencing costs related to COVID-19.

You were a student in the spring 2020 semester when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. Therefore, you are eligible to be considered for grant money to help recover from some of the expenses related to this pandemic.

You as a student at Weatherford College during the spring 2020 can apply for this grant. This money is free. You do not have to pay it back at all. According to the IRS, you do not have to report it on your IRS taxes per their guidelines.

The amount of grant money available per student ranges from \$100 to \$2,000. We actually encourage you to considering applying for this grant money. You must complete an online application that will take maybe 10 minutes.

When you get to the application, there are living expenses, food expenses, computer technology expense, and child care, etc. Put the amount of money you have expended even if it goes over \$2,000 since March of 2020.

We are refunding this grant money weekly by direct deposit or your coyote card.

Here is the link to the application. Please do not wait. This grant money will not last long.

<https://baseline.campuslabs.com/wc/caresactopenapp>

WC FINANCIAL AID OFFICE



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**Weatherford College CARES Act Informational Webpage**

Weatherford College created an informational webpage specifically for CARES Act general information, instructions on how to apply for funds, data regarding awarded funds and frequently asked questions. The webpage is part of the Weatherford College website and can be found here: <https://wc.edu/paying-for-weatherford/cares.php>