

## **CARES ACT Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)**

### **US Department of Education Reporting Requirement As of September 30, 2020**

LSUS signed the funding certification and agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 16, 2020 and plans to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students. LSUS will also use approximately \$270,000 of the Institutional Portion to distribute emergency financial aid grants.

- LSUS received \$912,943 (50%) of the total Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) dollars allocated to the university for emergency student aid.
- LSUS used an additional \$269,057 of the Institutional Portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to award emergency student aid
- As of September 30, 2020, \$1,182,600 has been distributed to students
- Approximately 1,480 students are eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant
- As of September 30, 2020, 1,480 students have received an emergency financial aid grant
- All eligible students were awarded CARES Act funding. Award amounts ranged from \$125 - \$1,000 depending on enrollment status and financial need

Eligible students are defined as:

- Enrolled in an eligible program
- A U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- With a Valid 2019-2020 FAFSA on file as of March 13, 2020
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress as of March 13, 2020
- Not in default or owe an overpayment on a Title IV grant or loan
- Having documents on file verifying the student's identity, a statement of educational purpose, selective service registration, birth certificate and social security number

The language of the law specifically prohibits the following types of students from receiving the emergency grants:

- International and undocumented students
- Dual enrollment students
- Students enrolled in 100% online programs

The following email was sent to student recipients once funding was awarded:

You have been awarded an Emergency Financial Aid Grant, provided by the CARES Act recently passed by Congress. Your award is posted on myLSUS under the Financial Aid Awards tab and you should receive a check or electronic disbursement in 5-7 business days. This award is a direct payment to you and will not be applied to any outstanding University balance. No further action is required on your part.

In order to assist all eligible students as defined by the CARES Act guidelines, LSUS used two factors to determine award amounts: your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from your 2019-20 FAFSA, and your spring enrollment status (please see table below).

<b>EFC</b> (found on your 2019-20 Student Aid Report)	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Less than Half-Time</b>
0-5,576 (Pell eligible range)	\$1,000	\$750	\$375
5,577-14,999	\$750	\$500	\$250
15,000+	\$500	\$250	\$125

The Emergency Financial Aid Grants are meant to assist students enrolled in face-to-face programs with the expenses incurred during the transition to online learning. You should use these funds for technology and technology-related needs, food, housing, course materials, healthcare, childcare, and other costs related to the disruption of campus operations from COVID-19.

We understand the transition to online learning due to COVID-19 has greatly affected our students. We admire your perseverance during this uncertain time and hope this Emergency Financial Aid Grant provided through the CARES Act will assist with your incurred expenses.

We understand this last semester has been challenging dealing with COVID-19 and the disruption to campus.

### **Cares Act HEERF Emergency Relief Grants for Students**

The **Cares Act HEERF Award** is a cash award from the federal government that will be paid directly to eligible students from the CARES Act funding provided to LSUS by the federal government. These funds were provided to assist with costs associated with campus disruptions in Spring 2020 due to the pandemic.

In compliance with the guidelines and eligibility requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of Education, the following criteria outlines which students are eligible for funding, as well as those who are not eligible.

Students who **are** eligible for CARES Act awards are:

- Enrolled in a traditional, on-campus degree program as of March 13, 2020; and,
- Making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree at LSUS; and,
- Have completed a FAFSA and eligible to receive federal Title IV aid.

Students who **are not** eligible and will not receive an award:

- Any student enrolled in a 100% online program as of March 13, 2020.
- International students who are not eligible to submit a FAFSA or receive Title IV aid.
- Non-degree seeking students.
- Visiting students.

Any student meeting the eligibility requirements listed above will automatically receive a CARES Act award. LSUS did not require an application for these awards and checks will be mailed to the student's mailing address listed on the myLSUS portal if no banking info was on file.

### **How Funds are Distributed**

Through the CARES Act, LSUS received \$912,943 million in student-aid funding for distribution to address student needs associated with the disruption to campus operations from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, to be eligible for consideration, students are required to have a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file, must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress, and not enrolled in a 100% online program. All eligible undergraduate, graduate and practical nursing students enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester as of March, 13, 2020 will receive aid according to a sliding scale based on enrollment status and demonstrated financial need per their current FAFSA on file.

### How Students Receive Funds

Students receiving funding will either have it direct deposited to their bank account on file with the Accounting Services Office or receive a check mailed to the mailing address listed on myLSUS if they do not have a bank account on file. All students can enroll in direct deposit by logging into their myLSUS account and selecting “My Financials” then “Sign-up/Change Options” then “Electronic Disbursements.” For questions or more information, please contact the Accounting Services Office at [accounting\\_services@LSUS.edu](mailto:accounting_services@LSUS.edu).