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# OPE

Office of Postsecondary Education

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## CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

[New COVID-19 FAQ's for Title III, IV, V, and VII Grantees](#)

[COVID-19 FAQ for Grantees PDF \(/about/offices/list/ope/ope-covid19-faq.pdf\)](#) (256K)

### CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Updated statement 5/21/2020: The Department has stated on its guidance portal that "guidance documents lack the force and effect of law." See U.S. Department of Education's Guidance Homepage, <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/types-of-guidance-documents.html> (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/types-of-guidance-documents.html>) ("Guidance documents represent the ED's current thinking on a topic. They do not create or confer any rights for or on any person and do not impose any requirements beyond those required under applicable law and regulations. Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law."); compare, e.g., OPE Guidance Documents, <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/guidance.html> (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/guidance.html>) ("Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law."). On February 26, 2020, the Department published a Federal Register notice stating this principle along with an announcement of the existence and location of its

guidance portal. Notice of Guidance Portal, 85 Fed. Reg. 11056, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-02-26/pdf/2020-03811.pdf> (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-02-26/pdf/2020-03811.pdf>). The statement applies to all of the Department's guidance except as authorized by law or as incorporated into a contract.

This includes, for example, the statements in response to question 5 of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Institutional Frequently Asked Question document located here and question 9 of the HEERF Student FAQ document located here explaining that only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, may receive emergency financial aid grants. HEERF Institutional FAQs at 2, HEERF Student FAQs at 4. The Department will not initiate any enforcement action based solely on these statements because they lack the force and effect of law. In contrast, the underlying statutory terms in the CARES Act are legally binding, as are any other applicable statutory terms, such as the restriction in 8 U.S.C. § 1611 on eligibility for Federal public benefits including such grants.

In addition, the Department reiterates its guidance that emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act may only be given to those who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), but emphasizes that that guidance is specific to the distribution of emergency financial aid grants and does not apply to the use of HEERF institutional allocations to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus. The Department continues to consider the issue of eligibility for HEERF emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act and intends to take further action shortly.

Please refer to the posted instructions below on navigating the grants.gov website and uploading Certificates of Agreement, and please refer to the Secretary's letter below for guidance regarding distribution and usage of these funds.

Student Aid	Institutional Portion	Historically Black Colleges and Universities
American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities	\*Minority Serving Institutions	
\*Strengthening Institutions Program	Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education	

\*Minority Serving Institutions include institutions that would be eligible to participate in the following programs: Predominantly Black Institutions, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions, Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program, and Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

\*Strengthening Institutions include institutions that are not participating in the other MSI programs but have at least 50 percent of their degree students receiving need-based assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act or have a substantial number of enrolled students receiving Pell Grants, and have low educational and general expenditures.

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - Student Aid

### Information for Students

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.

Please note that the Department will soon be announcing a deadline by which institutions of higher education must apply for the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) funding under section 18004a(1) of the CARES Act. A formal notice will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. We will update this website with the

appropriate notices and information when they become available.

The funding opportunity number is ED-GRANTS-041020-003. If you have questions concerning this program, please submit them via e-mail to [HEERF@ed.gov](mailto:HEERF@ed.gov) (<mailto:HEERF@ed.gov>), or by phone, at 202-377-3711.

## Guidance on How to Apply for Funding-HEERF- Student Aid

- [Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants: PDF \(grantsgovsubmittipsheerf.pdf\)](#) (169K)
- [A Guide for how to apply for funding in GRANTS.gov: PDF \(guidancetoapplyforheerf.pdf\)](#) (170K)
  - [Visual aid: PDF \(edgrants041020003howtoapply.pdf\)](#) (1.2M)
  - [How to upload a Workspace PDF \(heerfhowtouploadadocument.pdf\)](#) (101K)

## Letter from the Secretary

CARES Act grant funding cover letter: [PDF \(caresactgrantfundingcoverletterfinal.pdf\)](#) (138K)

## A Certificate of Agreement

CARES HEERF Certification and Agreement: [PDF \(heerfstudentscertificationagreement42020.pdf\)](#) (828K)

## Formula allocations

Allocations for Section 18004(a)(1) of CARES Act: [PDF \(allocationsforsection18004a1ofcaresact.pdf\)](#) (1.28M)

Methodology for Calculating Allocations: [PDF \(heerf90percentformulaallocationexplanation.pdf\)](#) (138K)

## Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions about the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the CARES Act [PDF \(heerfstudentfaqs.pdf\)](#) (189K) (and please see the updated statement referencing this document at the top of this page)

Internal Revenue Service FAQs regarding Grants under the CARES Act (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-and-emergency-financial-aid-grants-under-the-cares-act>)

## Student Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions about the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students [PDF \(studentfaqs515.pdf\)](#) (106K)

## Reporting and Data Collection

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (<https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>)

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-Institutional Portion

You must complete and submit the CARES HEERF Certification and Agreement Student's Portion before submitting the CARES HEERF Certification and Agreement for the Institution's Allocation of HEER Funds.

Please note that the Department will soon be announcing a deadline by which institutions of higher education must apply for the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) funding under section 18004a(1) of the CARES Act. A formal notice will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. We will update this website with the appropriate notices and information when they become available.



## **Confirmation**

Thank you for submitting your grant application package via Grants.gov. Your application is currently being processed by the Grants.gov system. Once your submission has been processed, Grants.gov will send email messages to advise you of the progress of your application through the system. Over the next 24 to 48 hours, you should receive two emails. The first will confirm receipt of your application by the Grants.gov system, and the second will indicate that the application has either been successfully validated by the system prior to transmission to the grantor agency or has been rejected due to errors.

Please do not hit the back button on your browser.

If your application is successfully validated and subsequently retrieved by the grantor agency from the Grants.gov system, you will receive an additional email. This email may be delivered several days or weeks from the date of submission, depending on when the grantor agency retrieves it.

You may also monitor the processing status of your submission within the Grants.gov system by clicking on the "Track My Application" link listed at the end of this form.

**Note:** Once the grantor agency has retrieved your application from Grants.gov, you will need to contact them directly for any subsequent status updates. Grants.gov does not participate in making any award decisions.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you do not receive a receipt confirmation and either a validation confirmation or a rejection email message within 48 hours, please contact us. The Grants.gov Contact Center can be reached by email at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov), or by telephone at 1-800-518-4726. Always include your Grants.gov tracking number in all correspondence. The tracking numbers issued by Grants.gov look like GRANTXXXXXXXXXX.



**US Department of Education  
Washington, D.C. 20202**

P425E204936

**GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION**

<b>1</b>	<b>RECIPIENT NAME</b>  Fred W. Eberle Technical Center 208 Morton Avenue Buckhannon, WV 26201	<b>2</b>	<b>AWARD INFORMATION</b>  PR/AWARD NUMBER      P425E204936 ACTION NUMBER         1 ACTION TYPE            New AWARD TYPE             Formula																				
<b>3</b>	<b>PROJECT STAFF</b>  <b>RECIPIENT STATE DIRECTOR</b> Michael Murray                    (304) 472-1259 <a href="mailto:rebecca.bowers@k12.wv.us">rebecca.bowers@k12.wv.us</a> <b>EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT</b> Harold L Wells                      (202) 453-6131 <a href="mailto:Harold.Wells@ed.gov">Harold.Wells@ed.gov</a> <b>EDUCATION PAYMENT HOTLINE</b> G5 PAYEE HELPDESK            888-336-8930 <a href="mailto:edcaps.user@ed.gov">edcaps.user@ed.gov</a>	<b>4</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>  84.425E Fred W. Eberle Technical Center is applying for this grant opportunity based on the disruption of education and costs incurred to students when school closed due to COVID-19.																				
<b>5</b>	<b>KEY PERSONNEL</b>  N/A																						
<b>6</b>	<b>AWARD PERIODS</b>  BUDGET PERIOD      06/04/2020 - 06/03/2021 FEDERAL FUNDING PERIOD      06/04/2020 - 06/03/2021  <b>FUTURE BUDGET PERIODS</b>  N/A																						
<b>7</b>	<b>AUTHORIZED FUNDING</b>  CURRENT AWARD AMOUNT            \$60,985.00 PREVIOUS CUMULATIVE AMOUNT      \$0.00 CUMULATIVE AMOUNT                \$60,985.00																						
<b>8</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION</b>  DUNS/SSN            037240355 REGULATIONS        EDGAR AS APPLICABLE 2 CFR AS APPLICABLE ATTACHMENTS        1 , 3 , 8 , 9 , 11 , 12 , 13 , 14 , E-3 , E4 , E5																						
<b>9</b>	<b>LEGISLATIVE AND FISCAL DATA</b>  <b>AUTHORITY:</b> PL 116-136 TITLE VIII CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT <b>PROGRAM TITLE:</b> EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND <b>CFDA/SUBPROGRAM NO:</b> 84.425E  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FUND CODE</th> <th>FUNDING YEAR</th> <th>AWARD YEAR</th> <th>ORG. CODE</th> <th>CATEGORY</th> <th>LIMITATION</th> <th>ACTIVITY</th> <th>CFDA</th> <th>OBJECT CLASS</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0251M</td> <td>2020</td> <td>2020</td> <td>EP000000</td> <td>B</td> <td>DVA</td> <td>000</td> <td>425</td> <td>4101C</td> <td>\$60,985.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			FUND CODE	FUNDING YEAR	AWARD YEAR	ORG. CODE	CATEGORY	LIMITATION	ACTIVITY	CFDA	OBJECT CLASS	AMOUNT	0251M	2020	2020	EP000000	B	DVA	000	425	4101C	\$60,985.00
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*Fred W. Eberle Technical Center*  
208 Morton Avenue  
Buckhannon, WV 26201  
(304) 472-1259  
*"Reaching For The Future"*

### **Awarding the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Grant**

The HEERF, a Federal Department of Education Grant of 2020, given to institutions of higher learning due to the disruption of classes from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), is to assist students who experienced financial hardship during the months of March-May, 2020.

This grant will be awarded to any post-secondary student who is/was enrolled in a tuition-based, full-time post-secondary program at Fred W. Eberle Technical Center during the months of March-May, 2020.

Students enrolled throughout the weeks of March 16, 2020 through May 22, 2020 will be awarded an equal amount based on the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education on May 21, 2020 <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>. The amount dispersed to each student is determined by dividing the full grant award, \$60,985.00, by the number of post-secondary students enrolled during the specified time-period. The amount awarded to students enrolled only a portion of the time during the weeks of March 16, 2020 through May 22, 2020 will be pro-rated based on the number of weeks enrolled with three week enrollments being the minimum to receive funding.

*As required by federal laws and regulations, the Fred W. Eberle Technical Center Administrative Council does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, disability, age, and national origin in employment and in the administration of any of its education programs and activities* For inquiries contact: Rebecca Bowers-Call, Title IX Director and 504 Coordinator, 208 Morton Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201, 304.472.1259 or [rebecca.bowers@k12.wv.us](mailto:rebecca.bowers@k12.wv.us).