

# CARES Act Student Emergency Grants Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)

Quarterly Report Created on June 30, 2021 (Final Report)



*This document provides the necessary information to comply with Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281.*

The information includes all HEERF Student Grant Funds, including funds provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

## **Certification and Agreement**

On April 13, 2020 Baker College signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement document under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Baker College intends to use all student grant funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

- The CARES Act Student Grant funds became available to Baker College on April 23, 2020 for a total amount of \$2,877,191.

## **Eligible Students**

The eligibility requirements for students have been updated multiple times since the HEERF funds were initially established. Under the most recent guidance, all students who attended on or after March 13, 2020 could be eligible for HEERF funds. Based on this guidance, approximately 10,015 students are eligible for HEERF funds (this figure includes all students who attended Baker College between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2021).

- CARES Act funds were distributed under the prior requirements that eligible students meet the requirements of Section 484 in the Higher Education Act of 1965 and have a disruption of campus operations resulting from COVID-19 (students taking only online courses were not eligible for CARES Act funds at that time).

## **Funds Distributed**

As of June 30, 2021, Baker College has distributed a total of \$10,854,846 in HEERF Student Grant Funds to a total of 5,730 students.

CARES Act Funds Distributed: \$2,877,191 has been distributed to students. In addition, Baker College has awarded \$527,821 to students from the Institutional Grant portion of the CARES Act

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## Methodology to Determine Who Receives Funds

While Baker College understands that all students have been impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic, these federal funds contain very specific eligibility requirements. The methodology utilized for each of the funds varied based on the federal requirements established at the time the funds became available.

CARES Act Methodology: Qualified students must meet all of the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- Registered in at least one on-campus course that transitioned to the online format or a lab/clinical/work experience course that has been delayed due to COVID-19
- Enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree program
- Meet federal Title IV eligibility requirements
  - US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
  - Males must be registered with the selective service
  - Not in default or owe an overpayment of Title IV funds
  - Meet the financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress rules
  - Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school
- Incurred increased expenses as a direct result of the disruption of campus operations

## Methodology to Determine Grant Amounts

The methodology utilized for each of the funds varied based on the federal requirements established at the time the funds became available.

CARES Act Methodology: The amount of assistance was determined by the Federal CARES Act Emergency Assistance Application and/or eligible expenses identified by Baker College based on institutional disruption and course delays. The amounts were calculated on an overall average of expenses incurred and are prorated based on the student's financial aid need level (utilizing the EFC as calculated through the FAFSA process).

- Technology assistance: \$500
- Equipment purchase: up to \$500
- Living/housing allowance for delayed coursework: up to \$2000
- Living allowance based on student needs: up to \$1100
- Housing expense assistance based on student needs: up to \$900
- Child care assistance based on student needs: up to \$600

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## Student Notification & Instructions

Student notifications and instructions varied based on the timeline of the available funds. Email was the primary source of communication used in all cases.

CARES Act Notification & Instructions: On April 27, 2020 an email was sent to all students who were enrolled in at least one on-campus course for spring semester as of March 13, 2020. In addition, an email was sent to all online and non-degree seeking students informing them of our awarding criteria and their ineligibility based on the fact that there was no disruption to online courses.

During the week of May 11, 2020 all students meeting the qualifying criteria were awarded the emergency grant funds and were sent an email including any action steps required. Students who were determined to be Title IV eligible had no required action; however, we recommended that they set up their refund preference with BankMobile (if not done previously). Students who had not previously completed a FAFSA or the application, were given instructions to accept their award which includes the self-certification of Title IV eligibility.

## Future Distribution

CARES Act funds have been fully disbursed to students.

*Questions regarding Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students should be directed to:  
financialaid@baker.edu*