

Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

Salisbury University Grant# P425E200233

4/20/2020 – 10/31/2020

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

SPRING 2020

Salisbury University (SU) signed and submitted a Certification and Agreement to the US Department of Education on April 11, 2020, requesting funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. SU received \$5,959,457, and distributed one-half (\$2,979,729) directly to students in the form of Emergency Financial Aid Grants, in accordance with Section 180004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

To satisfy the requirements of Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Salisbury University identified students eligible for funding as those having a current FAFSA on file with the university (for more information see: [CARES Emergency Student Grant](#)). Per Secretary Betsy DeVos' guidance, we intended to provide emergency relief to the students who exhibited the greatest need. We considered students with an Estimated Family Contribution of \$30,000 or less. Using the above criteria, in spring 2020 we identified 4,050 students for immediate emergency aid.

The initial disbursement to students was to reimburse expenses that students incurred due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the implementation of fully online, remote instruction. We recognized that students had to travel back and forth to campus due to spring break and the order to vacate their student housing. We also recognized that students incurred expenses related to technology as a result of transitioning to an online instruction environment. As such, the following expenses were reimbursed:

Eligible in-state students received \$150 for travel expenses.

Eligible out-of-state students received \$250 for travel expenses.

All eligible students received \$300 for technology expenses (internet and software requirements, web cams, etc.)

By April 30, 2020, within 30 days of receiving the award, a total of \$1,868,100 was distributed to 4,050 students. The students were notified by e-mail of their refund. Additional announcements were made via social media, and the Salisbury University Financial Aid Office website.

Most of the remaining \$1,111,629 for direct student support was allocated for SU Emergency Aid applications. Students meeting enrollment, U.S. citizenship and satisfactory academic progress requirements who are Title IV eligible and have incurred an economic hardship or expenses due to the disruption of campus activities directly related to COVID-19 could apply for reimbursement through this fund. All students were notified of the additional funds via a campus-wide announcement. Students applied through an online scholarship system. Initial awards were made up to \$1,000 per student, with exceptions possible on a case-by-case basis. Students applying for the additional aid provided a description of expenses incurred directly related to COVID-19, and had to certify that the expenses were due to the disruption of campus operations.

SUMMER 2020

In the summer of 2020, SU reimbursed students who were charged for books that were not returned to the Bookstore due to the inability of students to return to campus. That totaled \$24,650.

As the pandemic continued and all SU classes were totally online, \$40,000 was distributed to students incurring additional technology costs over the summer.

By August, 2020, SU had distributed \$2,524,128 to 4250 students, as shown in the chart below. The funds remaining in August were earmarked for students enrolling in the fall who met the same eligibility requirements and incurred expenses directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awarded Amount	2,979,729.00
Transportation and Technology Distribution	1,868,100.00
Misc. Expense Reimbursement	591,378.00
Book Return Reimbursement	24,650.00
Summer Student Expenses	40,000.00
Remaining Funds	455,601.00

FALL 2020

As classes resumed in the fall in either face-to-face, hybrid, or 100% online modality, SU made a blanket distribution of \$500 to those enrolled who met the same initial eligibility requirements, to cover increased technology needs. That remaining \$455,601 was distributed to 912 students.

In summary, the entire amount of CARES funding of \$2,979,729 for student aid was distributed to students in need in the form of blanket distributions to eligible students, by semester, to cover travel and technology needs, or by awards based on an application and demonstrated financial need directly the result of campus disruptions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. SU determined that **7547** students were "Title IV Eligible" between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Those students had either: 1) had a non-rejected FAFSA for 19-20 and were degree seeking w/ enrollment in spring 2020 or summer 2020 or 2) had a non-rejected FAFSA for 20-21 and were degree seeking w/ enrollment in fall 2020. In total SU awarded funds to **5099 students** from April 2020 – September 2020.

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