



CARES Act Funding

Under Section 18004(a)(1)

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 50% for Student Aid

August 31, 2020
Report #3

1. Gina Puc, authorized representative of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), acknowledged and signed the Certification and Agreement on April 15, 2020 assuring that the institution 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.
2. MCLA has received \$654,699 from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is \$461,358 through August 28, 2020.
4. The total number of students at MCLA eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is estimated to be 1,140.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 576 as of August 28, 2020.
6. The following methods are used by MCLA to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
 - a. Students log into the Dynamic Forms site using their A# and complete an application for funds. In addition to their personal information, they check one of seven boxes (groceries, housing expenses, utilities, IT needs, transportation needs, one summer course, or other). They identify the amount requested in each category, provide explanation for expenses in the text box, and submit their request.
 - b. Forms are reviewed periodically by a Resiliency Fund review committee, which has established a standard set of criteria for recurring monthly expenses and a maximum for one-time items, such as a new computer.
 - c. Prior to committee review, each application is checked to insure the student is Title IV eligible (on the current list of FAFSA filers) and an enrolled student (either in the current academic term or registered to continue in the fall semester). Students not meeting these criteria are notified by the Vice President of Student Affairs regarding their ineligibility and how they can rectify the issue. If they do, their forms go back in the process. If not, they are rejected.
 - d. Each batch of forms is reviewed individually by the committee members who then meet virtually and discuss the awards, standard criteria, and any exceptions for special circumstances that might result in a larger one-time award.
7. MCLA students have received multiple email notifications regarding availability of grant funds. The application for funds is posted publicly on the MCLA website. Below is information continually communicated to students regarding guidance and direction concerning the intended use of Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
 - a. Students receiving funds must be eligible for Title IV federal funding which is the source of most financial aid. Student Financial Services has provided the review committee with a list of all matriculated undergraduates who have filed FAFSA and are eligible to receive CARES Act funds. Please note that this will NOT affect a student's future financial aid.
 - b. These funds are for student use to support educational costs (summer only right now), food, housing, and related expenses. The funds cannot replace lost income, or that of a family member, per guidance under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.