

CARES Act Student Funding
as of June 1, 2020

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to post a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or 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.

Simpson University acknowledges that the institution signed and returned the Certification of Agreement on April 22, 2020.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

SU is set to receive \$892,430, of which \$446,215 is designated to go to students in the form of an emergency relief grant. The remaining funds are designated as the institutional portion to cover unexpected expenses.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission.

As of June 1, 2020, 30 days after receiving notification of the grant received through the G5 system, 215 awards had been distributed to students.

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution 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 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Based on the eligibility requirements issued by the Department of Education, SU estimated 215 students met the full criteria as outlined.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

As of June 1, 2020, zero funds have been disbursed.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

The CARES Act, along with guidance issued by the Department of Education, granted the authority to Simpson University to exercise discretion in developing its own system and process for determining how to disburse its federally allocated emergency financial aid grants to students adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

SU utilized the below method for distributing funds:

Status	Award Value
Residential Students with Meal Plan	\$1100
Residential Students without Meal Plan	\$800
Commuters with Meal Plan	\$300

Proactive awards (Phase 1): SU awarded these funds on May 27, 2020, to students who met the below criteria:

- SU had received an official 2019-2020 FAFSA of April 27, 2020.
- Enrolled degree-seeking for spring 2020 term as of April 27, 2020.
- Lived on campus as of March 13, 2020.
- Not enrolled exclusively in an online program, defined as an educational program that has no residential classes over the course of the entire program.
- Meet Title IV Federal Financial Aid eligibility requirements.
- Maintaining the minimum requirements of Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Rationale for utilizing this method

Based on the guidelines issued, the grants are to be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). SU determined residential students were the most impacted by the disruption of campus operations. Commuters with meal plans were impacted by the closing of the campus dining hall.

The awards are subject to the student completing a certification of financial impact related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). If a student has not been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, they are expected to decline their award.

Student Application Process (Phase 2): Title IV-eligible students who have qualifying expenses may submit an individual appeal by emailing deaconsfund@simpsonu.edu.

To qualify for funding through this emergency application process, students must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled in a degree-seeking program at SU as of March 13, 2020 (can be enrolled part-time or full-time and as a graduate or undergraduate)
- Experiencing unexpected financial hardship resulting from an emergency or crisis
- Priority consideration will be given to students who did not receive an award through Phase 1.

Examples of expenses incurred during the spring 2020 semester that will be considered through the Deacon's Fund process:

- Emergency medical expenses
- Technology/equipment needed to ensure continuity of online learning
- Emergency travel expenses
- Homelessness or sudden loss of housing
- Overdue utility bills
- Loss of childcare
- Health insurance
- Tuition and fee funding will **only be approved on a case-by-case basis**
- Other financial needs arising from individual and/or special circumstances to be determined on a case-by-case basis

**Simpson University's Phase 2 plans have been reviewed by the Audit Firm Capin Crouse.*

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

The below email was sent to students:

Our community has demonstrated resilience and courage as we have responded to COVID-19 and we are here to support you during this time.

A few weeks ago, you should have received a message from me indicating that you may receive grant funds for the Spring 2020 semester as a result of the CARES Act Fund. Since that time, Simpson University has been diligently working with the federal government to award emergency grants to qualifying students.

However, we need to follow protocol as universities who receive federal funds will be audited later in the year to assure that we used government resources as directed. Therefore, please follow the steps below in order to help us speed along receipt of your funds. To view your award, log into your student portal, and click on "Financial Aid," and then click on "My Awards" for 2019-20.

1. You must verify that you have experienced negative effects due to the current COVID - 19 crisis and the subsequent disruption to the Simpson University campus operations. If your answer is yes, you can access the certification by clicking this link: [Self-Service](#)

2. By accepting the award, you are completing the Certification of Negative Impact and authorizing Simpson to send you your grant via your direct deposit information.

3. Go to the Student Account Center in the student portal and update your "Direct Deposit Information" by clicking this link: [Student Account Center](#) and making sure it is current. Also, be sure your mailing address is correct if you choose a check as your disbursement method.

Make sure you do the above by May 30, 2020 so we can disburse your grant by June 2, 2020.

UPDATES:

As of June 15, 2020, \$85,000 has been disbursed to 79 students.