Introduction

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the award Mount Aloysius College received under the HEERF – for student expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Covid-19 crisis, (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

30-DAY FUND REPORT

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.

Mount Aloysius College reviewed, signed, and returned the U.S. Department of Education's Certification and Agreement for HEERF funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. In keeping with the terms of the certification, Mount Aloysius College will 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 directly to students.

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.

Mount Aloysius College received a total of $408,252 to be provided directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the Covid-19 crisis.
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 (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

Funds were disbursed to students on May 18, 2020. The amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants disbursed to students totaled $408,476.

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.

The estimated total number of Mount Aloysius College students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore eligible to receive CARES Act HEERF funding is 844.

The number of eligible students excludes those ineligible to receive Title IV aid (e.g., non-degree seeking students, non-U.S. citizens, etc).

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.

There were 844 students who qualified and received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

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.

Awarding of the emergency financial aid grants for students was based on eligibility criteria provided by the U.S Department of Education. 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 (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA. Funds can be awarded to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degree programs and enrolled at Mount Aloysius College.
Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-matriculated students or students enrolled in distance-only (online) degree programs as of March 13, 2020. Federal guidance also encourages institutions to factor financial need into allocation of grant dollars to eligible students.

The grant award was based on student status (full time vs part time) and financial need based on the amount of the student’s Spring 2020 Pell award, if any. Depending on their status (FT vs PT) and their Pell award, each student received a minimum of $200 and maximum of $739.

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

As noted above, the emergency financial aid grants for students are being provided to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends. Guidance from the Department of Education indicates that these funds are being provided to students “to cover 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).”