

**Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement  
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and  
Economic Security (CARES) Act**

Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020), authorizes the Secretary of Education (“Secretary”) to allocate formula grant funds in the amount of \$1,130,072 to West Hills College Lemoore (“Recipient”).

Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires Recipient to use no less than fifty percent of the funds received 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). This Certification and Agreement solely concerns the emergency financial aid grants to students under Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act.

To address the pressing financial need of students due to the disruption of campus operations from coronavirus, and pursuant to the authority duly delegated to the Secretary under the CARES Act and associated with the coronavirus emergency, as stated in Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020, “Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak,” *Federal Register* Vol. 85, No. 53 at 15337-38, the Secretary and Recipient agree as follows:

1. The Secretary will provide Recipient fifty (50) percent of its formula grant funds (the “advanced funds”) for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.

2. Recipient agrees to promptly make available emergency financial aid grants from the advanced funds directly to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses. Recipient shall not use the advanced funds to reimburse itself for any costs or expenses, including but not limited to any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus and/or any refunds or other benefits that Recipient previously issued to students.

3. Recipient retains discretion to determine the amount of each individual emergency financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws including non-discrimination laws. Recipient acknowledges that the Secretary recommends the maximum Federal Pell Grant for the applicable award year as an appropriate maximum amount for a student’s emergency financial aid grant in most cases, and the Recipient should be mindful of each student’s particular socioeconomic circumstances in the staging and administration of these grants. The Secretary strongly encourages Recipient’s financial aid administrator to exercise the use of professional judgment available under Section 479A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), 20 U.S.C § 1087tt, to make adjustments on a case-by-case basis to exclude individual emergency financial aid grants from the calculation of a student’s expected family contribution. The Secretary does not consider these individual emergency financial aid grants to constitute Federal financial aid under Title IV of the HEA.

- Enrolled in at least one unit
- Cannot be enrolled as an international student
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree, certificate or transfer program
- Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school and have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent
- \*\*Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards
- \*Not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants
- \*Not be in default on a Title IV loan
- \*Be a U.S. citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen
- \*Have returned any fraudulently obtained Title IV funds, if the student is convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges
- \*Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits
- \*Have repaid any Title IV loan overpayment amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits, if obtained inadvertently
- \*Registered for Selective Service, if assigned male at birth
- \*Have a valid Social Security Number
- \*Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations

\*Criteria was removed on 6/25/20 based on the Legal Advisory found [here](#).

\*\*Students not meeting the completion rate or max time frame criteria of SAP were not listed in the Legal Advisory.

Students were afforded an opportunity to submit an emergency grant application and if determined eligible according to the Department of Education guidelines were awarded \$500 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Funds are being disbursed via check or electronic payment.

In late April 2020, a message was sent to all registered students informing them of the CARES Emergency Grant with instructions to go online or to contact the Financial Aid Office. A set of [frequently asked questions](#) was also provided to students at that time. Beginning the week of August 3, 2020, the College plans to award and package \$500 grants to eligible new students and to communicate the award to those students with an encouragement to use the funds for instructional technology needs.

# CARES Act Funds Disclosures

## Department of Education Required Disclosures for the Receipt and Use of CARES Act and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which included the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to assist students who have experienced financial hardship relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Student Eligibility Requirements for HEERF

These funds, which are grants, not loans, are available to help eligible students who are facing an unexpected financial emergency and need help with one or more of the following items in order to stay enrolled in college: housing, food, basic technology to assist with online learning, and other essentials due to circumstances relating to the pandemic.

West Hills College Lemoore acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and assures that it intends to use no less than 50% of the \$2,260,143 in total funds allocated to the college under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, the total amount of funds received to date for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is \$1,130,072 (US Department of Education PR/Award Number: P425E201752).

As of September 27, 2020, \$1,073,600 has been distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. \$12,200 is scheduled to be disbursed on October 2, 2020.

The estimated total number of West Hills College Lemoore students eligible or could be 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 is 6,316.

As of September 27, 2020, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 1,545.

Eligible students must have met the following criteria, per the U.S. Department of Education requirements:

- Submitted a 2019-2020 FAFSA
- Have West Hills College Lemoore as their college of record
- Was not a fully online student prior to March 13, 2020
- Did not drop from all of their classes

- Enrolled in at least one unit
- Cannot be enrolled as an international student
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree, certificate or transfer program
- Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school and have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent
- \*\*Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards
- \*Not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants
- \*Not be in default on a Title IV loan
- \*Be a U.S. citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen
- \*Have returned any fraudulently obtained Title IV funds, if the student is convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges
- \*Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits
- \*Have repaid any Title IV loan overpayment amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits, if obtained inadvertently
- \*Registered for Selective Service, if assigned male at birth
- \*Have a valid Social Security Number
- \*Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations

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## CARES Reporting Chart

	Dates	Amount Disbursed	Amount to be Disbursed	Potential Cohort	Students Who Received
Period 1	July 27, 2020	\$ 458,000		4,251	916
Period 2	August 13, 2020	\$ 458,000	\$116,000	5,364	1,198
Period 3	September 27, 2020	\$1,073,600	\$ 12,200	6,316	1,545
Period 4	November 11, 2020				
Period 5	December 26, 2020				
Period 6	February 9, 2021				
Period 7	March 26, 2021				