

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides funding for colleges to support campus operations and to make emergency grants to students that have experienced additional educational expenses resulting from the disruption of campus operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under section 18004(a)(1) of this act, Rose State College was eligible to receive a total of \$3,084,740 of federal funding.

On May 8, 2020, Rose State College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form to secure funds through section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act for student aid. Through that agreement Rose State College certified that it would use at least 50% of total available funds, or at least \$1,542,370, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, for those meeting eligibility requirements.

The U.S. Department of Education has provided guidance to aid in the distribution of these funds and have included the following requirements for eligibility to receive an emergency relief grant:

- be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible to submit a FASFA form
- have a valid Social Security Number (SSN)
- have a High School Diploma, GED or certification of High School status in a homeschool program as detailed in state laws
- males must have registered with the Selective Service
- not be in a default status on any student loan
- not have been enrolled in a program of study that is completely on-line
- not be an undocumented (DACA) student.

In addition, Rose State College has excluded from eligibility the following student groups

- students that are incarcerated
- students receiving developmental instruction through the Sooner-Rose program
- students that had fully withdrawn from the institution prior to March 13, 2020
- students that are concurrently enrolled in College and High School classes
- students enrolled in less than 3 credit hours.

In the Spring 2020 semester there are 5,905 students enrolled in classes providing transcript credit leading to an associate degree, a certificate or other industry credential. It is estimated that at least 75% of these students would qualify for an emergency grant.

30 Day Report

It was (and is) the opinion of the administration that every student was impacted by the pandemic and the conversion to all online instruction after spring break in March. Although every student's need for assistance may be different, ranging from the need to purchase hardware to the need for additional bandwidth or data charges to be able to continue their classes online, each student faced some type of additional expense. It was the estimation of the College Administration that each eligible student should receive some assistance from the emergency grant funding provided by the CARES Act.

On June 3, 2020, Rose State College Financial Aid Department determined that 4,461 students met the eligibility requirements to receive a grant of \$345.74. On June 8, 2020, the Rose State College Cashiers processed the grants totaling \$1,542,346.14 or 99.99% of the money committed to be used in the CARES Act's Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The students' eligibility met those criteria previously listed.

As is normal procedure, the 4,426 grants totaling \$1,530,044.19 were wired to BankMobile on June 8, 2020 and the money was available to the students that afternoon in whatever method the student had established as their refund preference with BankMobile. Another 35 grants issued to students, totaling \$12,100.90 were not able to be released immediately because of systematic issues or missing information. Between June 9 and June 30, 2020, 20 of those issues have been resolved and related grants totaling \$6,914.80 have been wired to BankMobile and delivered to students. The students are notified by email from BankMobile when their funds were available.

As the U.S. Department of Education has set no restrictions on how students use the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, there have been no additional guidance provided to students from Rose State College.