

NOVA Emergency Financial Aid to Students under the CARES Act

45-Day Report to the Secretary for the period of August 27, 2020 to October 10, 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748), also known as the CARES Act, was signed into law by the President of the United States on March 27 to provide emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004, provides funding to institutions of higher education based on a formula stipulated in the legislation.

Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF authorizes the Secretary of Education to allocate funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. Guidance for students about the grants can be found on the NOVA CARES Act website: <https://www.nvcc.edu/studentemergencyaid/>

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, are eligible to 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. Students who have not filed a FAFSA but who are eligible to file a FAFSA also may receive emergency financial aid grants. NOVA has made every effort to determine eligibility.

Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act directs institutions receiving funds to submit a report to the Secretary 30 days from the date of the institution's Certification and Agreement and updated every 45 days thereafter. The fund report must be posted on the institution's website in a location that is easily accessible to the public.

1. NOVA returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the college 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.
2. NOVA has received **\$10,014,352** from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. NOVA has distributed a total of **\$8,208,230** in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of October 10, 2020.
4. The estimated total number of students at NOVA eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant is **19,375**.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant is **12,069**.
6. The method used by NOVA to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive is the number of FAFSA applications and by evaluating additional information as available to determine eligibility following Title IV and other relevant guidelines.
7. NOVA'S main page has a banner headline ("CARES Act emergency aid grants now available to NOVA students") with a link for students seeking how to apply for funds and for more information on the work of the college under the CARES Act including the latest updates on COVID-19 for the NOVA community please visit <https://www.nvcc.edu/studentemergencyaid/>