

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Quarterly Report to the Secretary for the period January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021

Final Report for HEERF I— GAN P425E200306

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, 2020 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 successfully filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), 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 an updated report every 45 days thereafter. Subsequent guidance from the Education Department established that Quarterly Reports will be filed and posted on the institution's website in a location 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 received \$10,014,352 from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. NOVA distributed the balance of our \$10,014,352 in Student Emergency Grants to spring 2021 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of February 16, 2021.
4. An additional \$2,550,583 from the institutional allocation, Section 18004(a)(1), was also awarded in Student Emergency Grants to spring 2021 students.
5. Based on fall-enrolled students who have completed the FAFSA process for 2020-2021 and are otherwise eligible, the 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 potentially eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant was estimated to be 15,750.

6. A total of 17,453 Student Emergency Grants were awarded to 9,353 NOVA students who applied for the grants over the Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 terms in the reporting period.

7. To determine which students would receive Student Emergency Grants, NOVA used an application and determined Title IV eligibility by either evaluating FAFSA data and information within our Student Information System (SIS), or, by a self-attestation, information within our SIS, and information within Selective Service and NSLDS data bases.

8. NOVA'S main page originally had a banner headline ("CARES Act emergency aid grants now available to NOVA students") with a link for students seeking more information on how to apply for funds and on the work of the college under the CARES Act. The latest updates on COVID-19 for the NOVA community can be found at <https://www.nvcc.edu/studentemergencyaid>. Currently NOVA's landing page for the college website <https://www.nvcc.edu/> carries a drop down ribbon labeled "Spring 2021, COVID-19 Updates and CARES ACT Reporting" and linked for convenience which states: "**No in-person student services are being offered on campus at this time. [Click here for remote student services](#). For CARES Act reporting, [please click here](#). For CARES Act emergency aid application, [please click here](#)."** All reports submitted are available on the CARES Act Reporting page.