

## Update 7 – February 10, 2021 CARES Public Disclosure

Criteria required for public disclosure:

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% of the funds received under section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Our acknowledgement document follows at the end of this public disclosure as Attachment A.
2. The initial amount of funds Eastern Connecticut State University will receive or has received from the Department to the institution Certification and Agreement (for) Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students was \$4,433,725 and \$2,216,863 of this amount represent the no less than 50% portion to provide Emergency Financial Aid to our students. In January 2021 the university was provided an additional \$4,843,490 in institutional funds and \$2,216,863 in additional student funds as a revision to the original grant.
3. As of January 31, 2021, we have distributed \$2,216,616 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to our students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
4. The estimated total number of students who have successfully qualified, or were originally considered potentially 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 under Section 1800(a)(1) of the CARES Act was 3,813 students.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 1804(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 3,146 students.
6. The institution set aside a minor portion of the student amount for a Student Emergency Grant Program. As of January 31, 2021, the Student Emergency Grant Program has distributed \$221,700 to 821 students. The distribution of the major funding was calculated using the potential total distribution of credit hours in the spring semester of all students who successfully qualified, or are considered potentially eligible, to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The initial \$1,704,654 awarded to full-time undergraduate non-Pell student was \$476.28 and \$666.84 for a Pell student. The value awarded for a full-time graduate student was \$357.21. Undergraduate students are considered full-time when enrolled in 12 or more credits and graduated students are considered full-time when enrolled in 9 or more credits. Part -time non-Pell undergraduate students were awarded at a rate of \$39.69 per credit and \$55.57 for Pell eligible students. Part-time graduate students were awarded at \$39.69 per credit hour. For example, a part-time non-Pell eligible student taking 3 credits would receive \$119.07 ( $3 * \$39.69 = \$119.07$ ). Once all eligible 3,146 students were identified, the remaining \$290,262 was awarded in December 2020, full-time undergraduate non-Pell student received \$81.12 and \$113.55 for a Pell student. The value awarded for a full-time graduate student was \$60.84. Undergraduate students are considered full-time when enrolled in 12 or more credits and graduated students are considered full-time when enrolled in 9 or more credits. Part -time non-Pell undergraduate students were awarded at a rate of \$6.76 per credit and \$9.46 for Pell eligible students. Part-time graduate students were awarded at \$6.76 per credit hour. For example, a part-time non-Pell eligible student taking 3 credits would receive \$20.28 ( $3 * \$6.76 = \$20.28$ ).

7. Guidance regarding the Emergency Financial Aid Grant was provided to students on our Eastern Connecticut State University web page and by email to our student population as follows,

### **Federal Emergency Funds**

Today I am sharing the following information with Eastern students and their parents, as well other members of the University community, regarding federal support being provided to the University through the Coronavirus Assistance, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Funds have been approved by Congress and will be distributed to state governments for various purposes and directly to institutions of higher education for emergency funding.

Eastern will receive \$4,433,725 in emergency funding through the CARES Act. Of that amount, \$2.2 million will provide partial relief to the University to offset lost revenues and additional expenses incurred due to COVID-19. In addition to more than \$6 million in housing and meal refunds disbursed to students, the University has incurred other expenses related to COVID-19 and continues to maintain its operations remotely, paying employees and covering all other normal operating expenses.

The other half of the emergency funds — \$2,216,863 — will be used to provide direct financial relief to students. Eastern is working with the other three state universities and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System Office to finalize the distribution model, including the amount students will receive and eligibility requirements. Once the model is finalized, disbursements will be made using the refund system and for students who are not registered for e-Refund individual checks will be mailed to their home address.

### **If you have not registered for eRefund, please register TODAY!**

We expect payments made by eRefund will get you your money approximately one week earlier than anyone receiving a check in the mail.

### **There is no fee to set up an eRefund and this is the quickest way to get your money.**

1. Go to [eWeb](#)
2. Go to your Student Account
3. Click "view account, make deposits/payments and set up payment plan"
4. Select Electronic Refunds in the top menu
5. Follow the prompts

While some details remain to be finalized, I can tell you that eligible students will receive funds based on credit hours, amounts will vary based on the students full-time or part-time status. Pell

students will receive additional funds based on guidance provided by the Federal Government. In total, we plan to distribute \$2 million directly to students, with an additional \$200,000 — 10 percent — available to support emergency requests. Currently we are developing the process to request consideration of support from the \$200,000 emergency fund. We will make more information available to you as details are finalized.

Jim Howarth

Vice President for Finance and Administration

### **CARES ACT and Eastern Connecticut State University Update May 1, 2020**

#### **New federal requirements have been released that limit student eligibility for distribution of CARES Emergency Funding.**

To be eligible for an automatic payment under the CARES Act, students must meet the following criteria:

- been enrolled in classes as of March 27, 2020;
- filed a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) for the 2019/2020 financial aid year;
- been determined to be Title IV eligible as outlined in the FAFSA; and
- completed all Office of Financial Aid verification requirements.

We strongly encourage students who have not filed a 2019-20 FAFSA to do so by **June 30, 2020** at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), so that your eligibility for CARES funding can be determined. Upon completing the FAFSA, please be sure to use the Eastern school code (**001425**) so that it will be routed to us for processing.

We expect to receive the funds as early as next week and will begin to disburse the automatic payments at that time. **Students do not apply for payments; the University will issue payments to eligible students.** Eligible students will receive automatic payments based on credit hours; amounts will vary based on the students full-time or part-time status. Pell students will receive additional funds based on guidance provided by the Federal Government.

Disbursements of the automatic payments will be made using the eRefund system and for students who are not registered for e-Refund individual checks will be mailed to their home address.

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