



June 30, 2020

HEERF Student Fund Reporting Requirements

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in response to COVID-19 pandemic. This act included funding to institutions of higher education, referred to as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), providing students with grants to offset the unexpected expenses they may have incurred as campus operations were disrupted. The Williston State College CARES Act Distribution Report was first published May 29, 2020.

1. WSC signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education. The college 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. WSC received \$169,405 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
3. As of June 15, 2020, \$152,800 of these funds have been disbursed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
4. There are an estimated 542 students at the institution that were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.
5. 216 students received CARES Act Grant funding under Section 18004 (a)(1) of CARES Act as of June 25, 2020.
6. WSC did not have an application for the CARES Act Grant. To determine eligibility, WSC pulled a list of students eligible for Federal Title IV funds who had a completed 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and had accepted a financial aid award for spring 2020 as of April 22, 2020. WSC then identified which of those were taking on campus classes and met WSC's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, along with guidance set by the Department of Education.

WSC's model for distribution for applicants is outlined below and was distributed based on the Expected Family Contribution calculated for each student on their completed 2019-20 FAFSA.

• Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 to \$2500	\$800
• EFC of \$2501 - \$6000	\$600
• EFC of \$6001 - \$10000	\$450
• EFC of \$10001 or higher	\$296

7. An email was sent to all campus emails on May 21, 2020 with information regarding the CARES Act with a link to more information posted on WSC website. All recipients of the CARES Act were emailed on June 11, 2020 informing them on where to view their award, when refunds would begin, and how they would receive their refund.



Email sent to all students:

From: WSC Financial Aid
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 7:54 AM
To: WSC-ALL STUDENTS
Subject: Federal CARES Act Grant

WSC Students: Congress recently passed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* in response to COVID-19 pandemic, which included funding to institutions of higher education. The *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)* section of the CARES Act will provide some students with grants to offset the unexpected expenses they may have incurred as campus operations were disrupted. WSC is currently working to finalize its campus-specific protocol to distribute student funds, which will be based on the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) data to determine eligibility. Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, students who are not eligible for Federal financial aid programs or who are online only are not eligible for CARES Act grant. WSC recipients will be degree-seeking, with high economic need (per FAFSA) who experienced operational disruption due to campus moving to remote instruction. Unfortunately, **not all students will be eligible to receive emergency grant funding.** Please visit the [WSC Federal CARES Act FAQs](#) and continue to check your email or website for updates.

Email sent to CARES Act Grant recipients:

From: WSC Financial Aid
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 (beginning at 11:00 AM) and Monday, September 29, 2020 3:00 PM
BCC: (recipients)
Subject: CARES Act Grant Recipients

Hello! You are a recipient of the CARES Act Grant from WSC. Your CARES Act Grant amount will be viewable on your Campus Connection beginning *(date awarded)*. **The CARES Act Grant will be released directly to the student and will not pay any outstanding charges you may have.** Refunds will begin *(date checks were processed)*. We have strongly encouraged students to sign up for direct deposit to prevent any delays in receiving their refund. If you have not enrolled in [direct deposit](#) use this link for instructions, or a paper check will be mailed to you mailing address on file. Please make sure your mailing address is up to date by completing the following:

1. Log into [Campus Connection](#)
2. Select **self-service**
3. Select **Demographic data**
4. **Address** tab
5. Edit by clicking the **pen** by the mail address
6. **Update** and click **OK** to save.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you!