

# The University of Texas at El Paso – Federal CARES ACT Funding Final Report:

## Introduction

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the first award The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

## Part I - Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

The University of Texas at El Paso acknowledges that it reviewed, signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the *Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students* on April 10, 2020, and the University received its grant award notification on April 20, 2020. In keeping with the terms of the certification and agreement, UTEP used at least 50% of the funds received under section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), to provide Emergency Financial Assistance Grants to students.

## Part II – Data

Date	Total Amount of Funds Received	Total Amount of Funds Distributed	Estimated Total Title IV Eligible Students *	Total Number of Students Received Grant
September 11, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$12,413,799 *	16,854	11,284
August 28, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$6,262,253	14,168	9,218
August 14, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$6,220,053	14,168	9,152
July 31, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$6,183,953	14,168	9,095
July 17, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$6,152,403	14,168	9,044
July 3, 2020 (45-day report)	\$12,413,799	\$6,109,953	14,168	8,960
June 17, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$6,024,873	14,168	8,819
June 3, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$5,866,708	14,168	8,571
May 19, 2020	\$12,413,799	\$4,666,692	14,168	7,397

\* The total amount of Federal funds received for CARES Emergency Assistance Grants has been depleted.

\* The number of eligible students includes those that have a FAFSA on file at UTEP and were determined to be eligible to receive financial aid and excludes those ineligible for Title IV aid (e.g., non-degree seeking students enrolled in dual credit courses, non-U.S. citizens).

### **Part III - Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much**

The University of Texas at El Paso, in accordance with federal guidelines, established a plan to promptly and equitably assist students with the greatest need through the *Federal CARES Act Assistance Grant*. Students were awarded from the funds based on completion of the CARES Act Assistance Grant application available on the [UTEP CARES](#) website. Students must have met the following eligibility requirements in order to access the application:

- Must have been enrolled in the current semester in a degree-seeking program
- Must not have been enrolled in an exclusively online program before March 13, 2020
- Must have successfully completed and submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2019-2020 (for spring and summer awards) or 2020-2021 (for fall awards), and be eligible for Title IV funding
- Must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements

The application assisted the University in prioritizing student need by allowing students to indicate financial hardship caused by the disruption to campus operations and the changes in the delivery of instruction due to COVID-19, including the loss of campus employment/internships and the loss of on-campus housing. Provided that the students were eligible to receive these funds and based on the individual student's circumstances and needs as indicated on the HEERF/CARES application, CARES grants were approved, with an average award amount of \$1,100 per student.

In accordance with the regulations and available guidance, grant funds were paid directly to students and not towards outstanding student account balances. The awards provided through the fund were to assist students with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations and the changes in the delivery of instruction due to COVID-19, including cost of attendance items such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

### **Part IV - Instructions**

Instructions on completing the CARES Act Assistance Grant application and guidance regarding student eligibility were provided by The University of Texas at El Paso to all students through numerous channels of communication:

- Information was provided in a Presidential Bulletin sent via email to all students
- Publication on the University's [UTEP Cares](#) website
- In an announcement posted on the [Campus Newsfeed](#)
- Provided on the CARES Act Assistance Grant application
- Emails and calling campaigns to targeted student populations

Additional instructions and directions were available to students through the UTEP CARES Response Team and the UTEP Office of Student Financial Aid.