

CARES Act/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF I)

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, SUNY Cortland converted all classes to online learning during the spring 2020 semester and also vacated the residence halls. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorizes universities to award emergency education financial aid grants (HEERF) to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.

SUNY Cortland acknowledges an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the institution 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.

SUNY Cortland has received or will receive **\$3,122,569 of HEERF funds for student aid** from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

SUNY Cortland has distributed **\$3,122,569 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **December 30, 2020**.

SUNY Cortland has determined **an estimated 5,600 number of students** at the institution are 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 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Reporting:

30 day: 0 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **June 3, 2020**

45 day: 1836 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students totaling **\$3,118,509.33** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **August 7, 2020**.

3rd Quarter reporting: 1838 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students totaling **\$3,121,938.17** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **September 30, 2020**.

4th Quarter reporting - FINAL REPORT for CARES ACT (HEERF I) : 1839 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students totaling **\$3,122,569** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **December 30, 2020**.

Awarding Methodology: SUNY Cortland has prioritized awarding of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to its students in the following manner (methodology)

SUNY Cortland will use a percentage model to distribute the funds between three different groups of students.

- Priority 1, as defined in the April 23, 2020 guidance letter will be Title IV Pell recipients and students with expected family contributions equal or less than \$5,576. SUNY Cortland will have a certification process for this priority group to verify funds will be used to cover cost associated with COVID-19.
 - **90% of funding allocated to priority 1 group**
- Priority 2, will be Title IV eligible undergraduate students that have completed a 2019/20 FAFSA or will complete a 2020/21 FAFSA. This priority group will need to complete an application to request funds. SUNY Cortland will use a rubric in our review process that will give the highest priority to EFC, and second will be the circumstances describe in the application.
- Priority 3, will be Title IV eligible graduate students that have completed a 2019/20 or will complete a 2020/21 FAFSA. The same application and rubric used for priority 2 will be required for this group.
 - **10% of funding allocated to priority groups 2 & 3 (email correspondence included below)**

SUNY Cortland developed the funds distribution formula based on our enrollment in the three different priority groups highlighted above, and believe this model would offer relief to those impacted by COVID-19.

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students received awards ranging from **\$630.82** to **\$1997.38**

Include any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Based on guidance provided by the Department of Education, students must meet the following eligibility requirements in order to be eligible for emergency relief funding:

- Be enrolled during the spring 2020 semester (on or after March 13, 2020)
- Be eligible for federal Title IV aid as defined by Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965*
 - Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP);
 - Not owe an overpayment (refund) on Title IV grants;
 - Not be in default on a Title IV loan;
- Not be matriculated in an exclusively online academic program
- Have or will have allowable expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus

***A valid FAFSA must be on file with the Financial Aid Office by June 1, 2020 to confirm Title IV aid eligibility**

The following communication was sent to Priority 2 and Priority 3 groups of students:

Dear student,

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, emergency funds have been made available to SUNY Cortland students through the CARES Act. Students could be eligible to receive these funds for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations. Expenses include food, housing, health care, child care, transportation, technology and course materials.

Please understand that the criteria to qualify for these funds includes Title IV eligibility. SUNY Cortland's Financial Aid Office will use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to verify this. You must have completed the FAFSA for academic year 2019-20 or complete the FAFSA for academic year 2020-21 to be reviewed. If you haven't completed the FAFSA for those academic years, SUNY Cortland recommends you submit the 2020-21 FAFSA. Please also be aware that the federal government has established criteria for the distribution of funding.

SUNY Cortland has developed the following application to collect the data required to distribute the funding: [COVID-19 Higher Education Emergency Fund](#)

The application deadline is Friday July 10, 2020. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Financial Aid Office at financial.aid@cortland.edu.

Direct Deposit is highly recommended: [Direct Deposit Form](#)

SUNY Cortland