

College of DuPage Award #P425E202088
CARES Act Higher Education Student Emergency Relief Fund Report
January 10, 2021

College of DuPage presents the following informational report in accordance with Department of Education CARES Act Grant Award. The College will ensure that this report appears in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and 18004(a)(2) and updated every 45 days thereafter:

1. Acknowledgement

On April 15, 2020, College of DuPage signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement that assures 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. Total Available Funding

College of DuPage has received \$4,550,443 from the Department of Education CARES Act pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

3. Total Funding Distributed to Date

As of December 31, 2020, refunds totaling \$4,544,743 have been distributed to eligible students, which is 99.8% of the total *CARES Act – Student Funding* award. The amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission will be reported every forty-five days.

4. Total Eligible Students

Based on the CARES Act guidelines, as of December 31, 2020, 6,395 students at College of DuPage are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus qualified to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

5. Total Number of Students Receiving Aid to Date

As of December 31, 2020, based on the CARES Act guidelines, 6,278 eligible students at College of DuPage have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act – Student Funds Award.

6. Method of Determination

Determination of Eligibility

In order to ascertain which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, the College used the following requirements to identify eligible students:

- Must have filed a FAFSA form for the 2019-2020 school year with the verification process of the FAFSA completed, or applied for the 2020-2021 if in need of funds for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021
- Must have no general Title IV eligibility flags, or the Title IV eligibility flags are cleared
- Must have been enrolled in the Spring 2020 term at the time of the legislation's passage (March 13, 2020), and as the College transitioned to remote learning,
- Must have been demonstrating Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, and,
- Must have incurred expenses related to the COVID-19 disruption of campus operations.

Refund Process

Each student is eligible to receive \$60 per credit hour of enrollment, up to a maximum award amount of \$1,200. Using these figures, College of DuPage distributed approximately 69% of the total CARES Act Student Fund Award (\$3,121,770) directly to 6,025 students who met initial eligibility criteria. Refunds totaling \$1,422,973 were provided to an additional 2,142 students, based on application and eligibility.

Students who met all eligibility requirements and who were enrolled in direct deposit with the College of DuPage Finance Office had refunds deposited directly into their account. Students who are not enrolled in direct deposit received a check by mail.

The remaining portion of the CARES Act Student Funding award will be distributed based on application by the student for CARES Act support on a first-come/first-serve basis.

7. Additional Student Guidance

Application Method

The application process is available using an online form that allows students to indicate their eligibility based on having a 2019-2020 or a 2020-2021 FAFSA. Students can select from a drop down list the unmet needs caused by the disruption of campus operations, transition to remote learning, and the impact the transition created. The form is reviewed by the financial aid staff and funds can be awarded based on unmet needs.

Students were informed the week of June 29th of the availability of the online application form through college email, and were able to start applying for CARES Act funds using the application. Awards resulting from an application or appeal will be funded on a first-come/first-serve basis until the remaining student emergency aid funds are exhausted.

Guidance for Non-eligible Students

Students who did not meet eligibility guidelines but requested financial assistance were directed towards possible resources including the College of DuPage Foundation, and state-based financial aid websites.