

CARES Act

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”) Report

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Report as of June 23, 2020

As explained in guidance and materials from the U.S. Department of Education¹ (the “Department”):

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Students cannot apply for assistance directly from the U.S. Department of Education but should contact their institutions for further information and guidance.

Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant.

Stevens-Henager College (Department OPE ID 00367400) received education stabilization funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Public Law No: 116-136.

This Fund Report applies to the Student Portion received under HEERF that is designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

Stevens-Henager College appreciates that Congress and the President have made these critical funds available for eligible students who have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. We take receipt of these federal funds seriously and are distributing them in accordance with the CARES Act and implementing guidance.

¹ See: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>

TIMELINE:

1. Stevens-Henager College executed its Certification Agreement with the Secretary and *submitted* its application (via Grants.gov) for the Student Portion of HEERF on April 11, 2020.
2. Stevens-Henager College *received* a GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION from the U.S. Department of Education on April 20, 2020.
3. Stevens-Henager College *submitted* a drawdown request of HEERF Student Grant funds (via the Department's G5 system) on April 24, 2020. The HEERF Grant Funds were *received* by Stevens-Henager College on April 27, 2020.
4. Stevens-Henager College began issuing Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students on April 30, 2020.

DISCLOSURES:

The institution is making the below information available for transparency purposes and in compliance with the Department's Electronic Announcement of May 6, 2020.²

1. Stevens-Henager College signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. Stevens-Henager 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. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department, pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, is **\$1,415,014.00.**
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act ***as of the date of this Fund Report*** is **\$1,215,773.00.**
4. The *estimated* total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher

² See: <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>

Education Act of 1965, and thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, as of the date of this Fund Report is **422**.

5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **362**.
6. The methods used by the institution to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act are provided at **Attachment A**.
7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants are provided at **Attachment B**.

For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Eric S. Juhlin, Chief Executive Officer via Danna Ridge, Administrative Assistant to Eric S. Juhlin, at danna.ridge@collegeamerica.edu.

Attachment A

Following the Secretary of Education’s April 9, 2020 guidance³ to allocate funds based upon student need and to ensure as wide a distribution as possible, Stevens-Henager College developed a three-tier allocation model based upon each eligible student’s federal financial aid Expected Family Contribution (“EFC”). Generally, the lower a student’s available economic resources, the lower their EFC and the greater their need. The projected eligible Stevens-Henager College onground students⁴, who were in an active status as of April 9, 2020, were included in the initial allocation model.

Stevens-Henager College’s initial allocation model was based upon the following three categories:

Category 1: Students with an EFC of zero (0). Students in this category could receive the largest grant per student. This level of

³ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresactgrantfundingcoverletterfinal.pdf>

⁴ Students enrolled and attending a degree program at one of Stevens-Henager College’s physical onground campuses. This population excludes any enrolled and attending students in a fully-online degree program delivered by Independence University.

Grant is referred to as the Maximum Grant and, based upon the initial allocation model, was set at **\$4,020**.

Category 2: Students with an EFC greater than zero (0) but less than 5577. This level of grant, based upon the initial allocation model, was set at 80% of the Maximum Grant, or **\$3,209**.

Category 3: Students with an EFC equal to or greater than 5577. This level of grant, based upon the initial allocation model, was set at 50% of the Maximum Grant, or **\$2,010**.

According to student eligibility guidance from the Department in its HEERF Frequently Asked Questions⁵, only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

Stevens-Henager College reviewed all active onground students and identified those students who had already previously received federal financial aid or VA benefits and were eligible for HEERF. For those students whom Stevens-Henager College could not determine eligibility, the institution provided these students with a Student Eligibility Certification Form to complete. A copy of the form is below. Upon receipt of this form, the institution determined these students' eligibility (or lack thereof). Students who were determined eligible from the Student Eligibility Certification Form were allocated to Category 3.

Attachment B

Stevens-Henager College notified and provided information to students about the emergency financial aid grants through the distribution of an Important Notice ("Notice"). The Notice also served as the tool by which students requested an emergency grant under this program. Below is a copy of the Important Notice.

⁵ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf>

Students were alerted about the Notice through phone call campaigns and emails from the institution. The institution then provided the Notice to students via an email through DocuSign. Upon completion, the Notice was returned to Stevens-Henager College's Financial Aid Department for review and determination of eligibility. After determining eligibility and categorization, the institution distributed a check to the student for their emergency financial aid grant.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The U.S. Department of Education has made Emergency Financial Aid Grants available to students of our colleges who need financial support for their expenses due to the disruption of campus operations from the Coronavirus.

The application below allows students to apply for these need-based grants. Your college will use the information below to determine your eligibility for a grant. **EVERY student will need to complete this form so they can receive an emergency grant. We estimate that each student's grant will range from \$1,500 to \$4,500.** These emergency funds are grants and you will not have to pay back these special grants. Each student will be eligible for only one grant, and only one application will be considered per student. A copy of this form will be sent to your email address of record via DocuSign. You will fill in the form in the DocuSign system. Be sure to click "finish" in DocuSign once you complete the form. If you do not receive the form, please contact the college. These grants are only for "Active" students that are currently enrolled and participating in courses.

Student Name (Print): _____ Email: _____

Campus: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Last Four Digits of SSN: _____

Do you have expenses due to Coronavirus disruptions? Yes _____ No _____

Check **any** of the items below that apply to you:

_____ I am financially responsible for my food expenses.

_____ I am financially responsible for my housing expenses.

_____ I am financially responsible for expenses related to my course materials to attend school.

_____ I am financially responsible for paying for technologies associated with attending online classes.

_____ I am financially responsible for my own health care costs.

_____ I have children and am financially responsible for my child's care expenses.

I attest that all information is true and accurate, and I am requesting a one-time Emergency Financial Aid Grant to help cover the cost of expenses due to the Coronavirus pandemic. I understand that I will be unable to revise this request after submitting it, and I understand that my college will determine my eligibility for an emergency grant based and the amount of any grant I am eligible to receive.

Student Signature (Required)

Date

CARES Act

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Report as of May 13, 2020

As explained in guidance and materials from the U.S. Department of Education¹ (the “Department”):

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Students cannot apply for assistance directly from the U.S. Department of Education but should contact their institutions for further information and guidance.

Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant.

Stevens-Henager College (Department OPE ID 00367400) received education stabilization funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Public Law No: 116-136.

This Fund Report applies to the Student Portion received under HEERF that is designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

Stevens-Henager College appreciates that Congress and the President have made these critical funds available for eligible students who have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. We take receipt of these federal funds seriously and are distributing them in accordance with the CARES Act and implementing guidance.

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TIMELINE:

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DISCLOSURES:

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2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department, pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, is **\$1,415,014.00.**
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act ***as of the date of this Fund Report*** is **\$1,200,504.00.**
4. The *estimated* total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher

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Education Act of 1965, and thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, as of the date of this Fund Report is 422.

5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is 357.
6. The methods used by the institution to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act are provided at Attachment A.
7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants are provided at Attachment B.

For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Eric S. Juhlin, Chief Executive Officer via Danna Ridge, Administrative Assistant to Eric S. Juhlin, at danna.ridge@collegeamerica.edu.

Attachment A

Following the Secretary of Education's April 9, 2020 guidance³ to allocate funds based upon student need and to ensure as wide a distribution as possible, Stevens-Henager College developed a three-tier allocation model based upon each eligible student's federal financial aid Expected Family Contribution ("EFC"). Generally, the lower a student's available economic resources, the lower their EFC and the greater their need. The projected eligible Stevens-Henager College onground students⁴, who were in an active status as of April 9, 2020, were included in the initial allocation model.

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Category 1: Students with an EFC of zero (0). Students in this category could receive the largest grant per student. This level of

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Grant is referred to as the Maximum Grant and, based upon the initial allocation model, was set at **\$4,020**.

Category 2: Students with an EFC greater than zero (0) but less than 5577. This level of grant, based upon the initial allocation model, was set at 80% of the Maximum Grant, or **\$3,209**.

Category 3: Students with an EFC equal to or greater than 5577. This level of grant, based upon the initial allocation model, was set at 50% of the Maximum Grant, or **\$2,010**.

According to student eligibility guidance from the Department in its HEERF Frequently Asked Questions⁵, only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

Stevens-Henager College reviewed all active onground students and identified those students who had already previously received federal financial aid or VA benefits and were eligible for HEERF. For those students whom Stevens-Henager College could not determine eligibility, the institution provided these students with a Student Eligibility Certification Form to complete. A copy of the form is below. Upon receipt of this form, the institution determined these students' eligibility (or lack thereof). Students who were determined eligible from the Student Eligibility Certification Form were allocated to Category 3.

Attachment B

Stevens-Henager College notified and provided information to students about the emergency financial aid grants through the distribution of an Important Notice ("Notice"). The Notice also served as the tool by which students requested an emergency grant under this program. Below is a copy of the Important Notice.

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Students were alerted about the Notice through phone call campaigns and emails from the institution. The institution then provided the Notice to students via an email through DocuSign. Upon completion, the Notice was returned to Stevens-Henager College's Financial Aid Department for review and determination of eligibility. After determining eligibility and categorization, the institution distributed a check to the student for their emergency financial aid grant.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The U.S. Department of Education has made Emergency Financial Aid Grants available to students of our colleges who need financial support for their expenses due to the disruption of campus operations from the Coronavirus.

The application below allows students to apply for these need-based grants. Your college will use the information below to determine your eligibility for a grant. **EVERY student will need to complete this form so they can receive an emergency grant. We estimate that each student's grant will range from \$1,500 to \$4,500.** These emergency funds are grants and you will not have to pay back these special grants. Each student will be eligible for only one grant, and only one application will be considered per student. A copy of this form will be sent to your email address of record via DocuSign. You will fill in the form in the DocuSign system. Be sure to click "finish" in DocuSign once you complete the form. If you do not receive the form, please contact the college. These grants are only for "Active" students that are currently enrolled and participating in courses.

Student Name (Print): _____ Email: _____

Campus: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Last Four Digits of SSN: _____

Do you have expenses due to Coronavirus disruptions? Yes _____ No _____

Check **any** of the items below that apply to you:

_____ I am financially responsible for my food expenses.

_____ I am financially responsible for my housing expenses.

_____ I am financially responsible for expenses related to my course materials to attend school.

_____ I am financially responsible for paying for technologies associated with attending online classes.

_____ I am financially responsible for my own health care costs.

_____ I have children and am financially responsible for my child's care expenses.

I attest that all information is true and accurate, and I am requesting a one-time Emergency Financial Aid Grant to help cover the cost of expenses due to the Coronavirus pandemic. I understand that I will be unable to revise this request after submitting it, and I understand that my college will determine my eligibility for an emergency grant based and the amount of any grant I am eligible to receive.

Student Signature (Required)

Date

CARES Act - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”) Student Eligibility Certification Form

Dear Student,

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Education has made Emergency Financial Aid Grant Funds available to students for expenses related to the disruption of college campuses due to the coronavirus. The college estimates that you may be entitled to receive emergency financial aid funds ranging from \$1,500 to \$4,500 depending upon your need and eligibility, however, these funds must be used exclusively for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus (including eligible expenses under the student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

According to guidance from the Department of Education, ***only*** students who are or could be eligible for to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, may receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

To determine if you are eligible, please answer the following the questions:

1. Are you a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen? _____ YES _____ NO
2. Do you have a Valid United States Social Security Number _____ YES _____ NO
3. Are you in Default on any Federal Student Loans? _____ YES _____ NO
4. **If you are MALE**, are you registered with the Selective Service _____ YES _____ NO

I certify and attest that my answers above are truthful and accurate.

Student Signature

Date

Print Name

Upon receipt of this form, the college will determine if you are eligible for the Emergency Financial Aid Grant Funds. If you are eligible, the college will provide you with a Notice and Form to complete to receive your emergency financial aid grant. If you are not eligible, the college will notify you of that too.

If you have any questions, **please** contact you Campus Director by calling the campus that you are attending.