

## **HEERF Emergency Funds for Students**

1. Acknowledgement that the Institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification Agreement

On April 27, 2020 Fontbonne University signed and submitted the Certification and Agreement Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to the Department of Education.

2. The total amount of funds that Fontbonne received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under HEERF 1-CARES Act is \$493,494. On December 27, 2020 HEERF 2 (CRRSAA) was passed and Fontbonne was granted an additional \$493,434 available for student emergency aid. No guidance had been issued as of March 31, 2021 so none of those funds were distributed as of the date of this report.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021 (our fifth report) is \$485,400. Distributions have been processed weekly as requests are received.
4. The estimated total number of students at the institution 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 is 732.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to date is 379.
6. The method 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:
7. All students received an email, with a request form attached, to answer questions regarding what covered expenses they had incurred as a result of the closure of the campus/move to a remote learning environment. All eligible students, as defined by the federal requirements, who responded that they had incurred such expenses (food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, travel or other as specified) as a result of this change initially received \$600 in emergency aid. Fontbonne University calculated this amount by reserving 10% of the total student allocation, for those with additional need who request via an application to the Fontbonne Emergency Fund, and dividing by the number eligible. Students also had the option of declining aid if they had not incurred these additional expenses and to date 139 students have responded in this manner. As a result of these funds being declined Fontbonne was able to distribute an additional \$250 to the 379 students who requested the aid. The following information was posted on the Fontbonne University website and emailed to all students on May 14, 2020.

### **Information regarding CARES Act Funds, 5/14/20**

#### **Federal Aid Opportunities for Students in Need**

Through the Federal CARES Act, Fontbonne has received emergency grant funding to assist students who have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19.

Students are eligible for CARES Act funds if they have filed a 2019-20 FAFSA and have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations as a result of the COVID-19. Federal guidelines prohibit the University from distributing CARES Act funds to international, undocumented or DACA students, or those who were already enrolled exclusively in online instruction. Please contact the Financial Aid Office ([finaid@fontbonne.edu](mailto:finaid@fontbonne.edu)) if you have questions about your eligibility or need assistance filing a FAFSA.

Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria for CARES Act funds and are in need of financial assistance are still encouraged to fill out the request form because there may be alternative funding sources available.

Students who either did not incur additional expenses or do not need financial assistance should indicate they decline CARES Act assistance so the University can reallocate those funds to assist other students in need.

Complete the CARES Act Request Form [here](#).

These funds will be distributed on a first come, first served basis while the funds are available therefore we encourage you to respond as soon as you are able. The University will disburse funds directly to the bank account on record for direct deposit. If you need to set up your account for direct deposit or update the bank account on file, please contact the Business Office ([busoffice@fontbonne.edu](mailto:busoffice@fontbonne.edu)) for assistance. Students not enrolled in direct deposit will receive a check mailed to the address listed on file. Please note that mailed checks may delay how quickly a student receives their funds.

It is important your address and contact information is current to avoid delays in processing fund distribution and to assist us in contacting you if needed. To update your contact information, log into [GriffinNet](#) with your username and password, select Edit Address on the top left, and update your local address to let us know where you are currently residing.

Fontbonne faculty, staff and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet always hold our students and their families in our hearts. Our focus on *Serving the Dear Neighbor* is heightened now while so many in our community are hurting as they cope with the uncertainty of this pandemic situation. Please know we continue to hold you in prayer for your safety and well-being. We look forward to your return to campus-we miss seeing you!

*Disclaimer: At this time, federal guidance requires that this grant aid be reported on your 2020 1098-T form but the funds are not considered taxable income to you.*

Fontbonne University also posted a FAQ section on the website under the COVID-19 banner headline.

Fontbonne University is also following up with emails to each student who does reply to let them know the status of their request or to offer additional information if need is beyond the CARES Act disbursement.

Fontbonne continues to try to contact the students who have not replied via additional email to non-school email addresses, if available, mailing of postcards to permanent addresses and regular communication via website and on campus mailers.