

Mount St. Mary's University  
CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Students  
As of July 6, 2020

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Mount St. Mary's University (the Mount) was allocated \$1,678,020. At least 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) were to be used as emergency aid for students. Upon submission of the Funding and Certification and Agreement, signed on April 21, 2020, the CARES Act provided the Mount with \$839,010 in funds to be distributed to students as Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The funds were provided to assist eligible students who incurred "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child-care expenses."

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. The Mount estimates 1,462 students meet this eligibility criteria.

In order to distribute funds to students with the highest need as quickly as possible, the Mount is awarding CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants in two phases. Emergency Financial Aid Grants awarded in Phase 1 of \$433,565 were mailed to students on or before Friday, May 22, 2020. Phase 2 awards funds will be determined and distributed later in the year.

### **Phase 1 Distribution**

To be considered for an award, eligible students had to have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and enrolled in classes for the spring 2020 semester. Additionally, the student must have been enrolled in classes that did not take place exclusively online prior to March 13, 2020 and meet other defined criteria. To prioritize students with the most need, the Mount awarded undergraduate Pell Grant recipients \$600. Undergraduate students who did not receive a Pell Grant but had an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) less than \$50,000 on their FAFSA were awarded \$245. Adult accelerated undergraduate Pell Grant recipients were awarded \$150 and adult accelerated undergraduate students, enrolled in at least six credit hours, who did not receive a Pell Grant with an EFC of less than \$10,000 were awarded \$50.

Additionally, eligible students who submitted an Application for Assistance online on or before April 30 were awarded \$150 in additional funding. One eligible student who submitted an Application for Assistance was deemed to be of extreme high need and received an award of \$3,200.

A total of 1,192 eligible students have been awarded CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants totaling \$433,565 in the phase 1 distribution.

### **Phase 2 Distribution**

Phase 2 distribution will occur in the summer of 2020. In order to be considered for funding under Phase 2, eligible students must file a 2019-2020 FAFSA no later than June 30, 2020.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Do I need to complete a FAFSA to receive CARES Act Funds?**

The only way to determine if a student meets the eligibility requirements to receive CARES Act funding is by completing a FAFSA. Students who have not filed a FAFSA and would like to be considered for funding under Phase 2 should immediately file a 2019-2020 FAFSA. The FAFSA must be processed no later than June 30, 2020, to be considered for phase 2 funding. Additional details regarding Phase 2 awards and funding will be posted to the website when available.

### **Are the funds I receive from the CARES Act taxable?**

According the IRS website, "Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income."

### **Do I have to repay the emergency financial aid grant I received from my university through the CARES Act?**

No. The funds provided by the CARES Act are grants, so they do not need to be repaid.

### **What can I spend the money on? Will I need to show receipts?**

The money you have received is yours. You do not need to show receipts. The funds were provided to assist eligible students who incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

## **Why didn't I receive a Phase 1 CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant?**

In order to receive funding under Phase 1 you must:

- Have submitted a complete 2019-20 FAFSA.
- Be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. \*
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid Social Security Number.
- Be an undergraduate, enrolled at the Mount during Spring 2020 at the time of the campus disruption due to coronavirus.
- Meet minimum satisfactory academic progress standards.
- Have an EFC less than \$50,000.
- Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
- Not have federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale.

\* The Mount estimates 1,462 students 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.

## **I was enrolled exclusively in online classes prior to March 13, 2020. Do I qualify for CARES Act funds?**

You are not eligible for CARES Act funds if you were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020.

## **How do I get additional information on the eligibility and/or awarding of the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Students?**

For questions on the eligibility and/or awarding of the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Students please email [MountCovidAid@msmary.edu](mailto:MountCovidAid@msmary.edu) or call Renee Ginn at 301-447-5382.