

CARES Act Reporting

[July 22, 2020]

Introduction

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by U.S. Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020, to provide economic relief from COVID-19. A section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) which sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

On April 9, 2020, the US Department of Education published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a [letter](#) from Secretary Betsy DeVos, a form [Certification and Agreement](#) for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of [institutional allocations under 18004\(a\)\(1\)](#).

Acknowledgment of Funding Certification and Agreement

NMC acknowledges that the authorized representative signed and returned to the Department of Education (ED) the Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. NMC gives its assurance that 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.

To date, NMC has been awarded a total of \$1,839,331 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The US Department of Education issued Award No. P425E200216 for a total amount of \$919,666 which will be provided directly to NMC students impacted by campus disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Grant Award Notification:](#)

Number: P425E200216

Title: Section 18004 - HEERF Direct Student Grant Program

Budget Period: 04/20/2020 - 04/19/2021

Award Amount: \$919,666.00

CFDA: 84.425E

Student Eligibility and Funding Distribution

Eligibility for students to receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Cares Act was based on the Department of Education's guidance on April 23, 2020, indicating that funds are limited to those who demonstrate eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Additionally, NMC determined particular criteria that students will need to meet, in order to be eligible for HEERF funding and how much will be received.

Establish Student Determination Criteria:

- a. Student must be a current full-time (FT) or part-time (PT) student for Spring 2020.
- b. Full time= 12 credits or more; Part-time = 11 credits or less
- c. The total number of enrolled credits on 4/11/2020 is used to determine student status.
 1. Students who withdrew from all classes before 4/11/ 2020 are not eligible.
 2. If a student withdrew from one or more classes prior to 4/11/20, status will be adjusted (i.e. FT to PT)
- d. Students participating in the University of Guam (UOG) consortium agreement and who identified UOG as their home school, will not be eligible for NMC disbursement. Funds will be provided through UOG.
- e. Students who are attending Maricopa County Community College (Rio Salado) through a consortium agreement with NMC and who identified NMC as their home school are considered eligible.

The estimated total number of NMC students eligible to receive funding is **1,031**, which is based on Spring 2020 Full/Part-time registered students. Students were provided the opportunity to provide the necessary information and indicate preference on receiving a disbursement in the form of a direct deposit or paper check. NMC received a total of \$919,666 in CARES Act funding and was awarded as follows:

Spring 2020	Total Students	Amount Per Student	Total Expense
Full Time	739	\$715.35	\$528,643.65
Part-Time	197	\$357.67	\$70,460.99
Total	936		\$599,104.64

Because not all eligible students have been able to successfully complete the submission of required submission to receive the financial assistance, the College is making attempts to reach out to those students so that the funds can be disbursed immediately.

Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the College had determined to initially disburse 80% (\$735,732.80) to Spring 2020 eligible students. The remaining 20% (\$183,933.20) will be distributed to students attending the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 terms. However, The respective amounts and disbursement dates have not yet been determined. The same criteria will be used for determining eligibility.

Student Guidance

Beginning on April 14, 2020, corresponding e-mails and announcements were sent by Interim President Frankie Eliptico and Interim CFO Shelly Tudela to students with the following Acknowledgment of CARES Act Funds and Provisions:

1. "To accept these funds, please acknowledge the following reminders:
The CARES Act funds are made available for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as course materials, technology, food, housing, health care, and child-care expenses.
2. The amount will be included in the IRS Form 1098-T.
3. On April 14, 2020, an email was sent to students by Shelly Tudela from NMC Finance Office to announce that Northern Marianas College had received confirmation from the U.S. Department of Education that it will be receiving a grant under the CARES Act to provide emergency funding for students enrolled at NMC. Students were informed that the College intended to provide the funds in the soonest possible time and in the safest manner given the social distance requirements that are in place throughout the CNMI. To eliminate the need of having to mail the checks, the College will have funds directly deposited into eligible students' bank accounts. If you did not respond to the email, any funds that are due will be mailed to the mailing addresses on file. Mailed checks will take several more days to process. Students were reminded to spend the funds prudently. Also, be sure to apply for other financial assistance that's made available to CNMI residents in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The College will continue to provide information about additional resources when they are available. Log into and read your NMC student email regularly for updates, FAQs, and links to important information.
4. NMC Received HEERF Student Aid Grant Notification on April 21, 2020
5. Distribution of CARES Act student funds commenced on April 24, 2020

NMC News Releases and Articles:

http://www.marianas.edu/content_news.php?idref=2502

http://www.marianas.edu/content_news.php?idref=2503

http://www.marianas.edu/content_news.php?idref=2507

http://www.marianas.edu/content_news.php?idref=2512

http://www.marianas.edu/content_news.php?idref=2513

http://www.marianas.edu/content_news.php?idref=2518