

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Report

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Reporting date: 8/12/2020

This report provides details on the allocation Nebraska Wesleyan University received under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act for Emergency Grants to Students under Award No. P425E201896 dated 4/24/2020.

1. Nebraska Wesleyan University signed the Certification and Agreement on 4/14/2020 and submitted it to the U.S. Department of Education on 4/15/2020. Pursuant to the agreement and Section 18004 of the CARES Act, NWU used no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide emergency grants to students for expenses related to disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.
2. Nebraska Wesleyan University received \$691,376 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to be distributed directly to students impacted by the disruption of campus operations resulting from COVID-19, according to the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Grants to Students.
3. As of 8/10/2020, Nebraska Wesleyan University has distributed \$691,376 in Emergency Grants to Students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
4. Nebraska Wesleyan University has an estimated total of 1,522 students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Grants to Students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
5. As of 8/10/2020, Nebraska Wesleyan has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 926 eligible students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
6. NWU used a two-phased process to distribute funds. It was determined that the decision to close university housing effective March 29 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in immediate unforeseen expenses for students. In phase one, eligible students who vacated university housing received a grant for unexpected expenses related to housing and food (\$500), housing only (\$350), and food only (\$150). In phase two, all eligible students were invited to apply for emergency assistance. Students were asked to provide the total amount of food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and other expenses they incurred resulting from the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Applications were reviewed by committee and decisions were communicated to students on 5/15/2020.

7. Instructions were provided to students via the NWU [COVID-19 Update webpage](#) and via email.
 - Email sent to students who did not have a FAFSA on file with instructions for submitting the FAFSA to determine eligibility for an emergency grant (4/28/2020)
 - Email sent to all students announcing the emergency grant process (4/29/2020)
 - Instructions posted to the NWU COVID-19 Updates webpage, including frequently asked questions and a link to the Phase Two application (4/29/2020)
 - Email sent to students receiving Phase One grants including the amount and disbursement method (4/30/2020)
 - Email sent to students receiving Phase One grants with instructions for setting up direct deposit (5/3/2020)
 - Email sent to all students with a reminder to apply for Phase Two grants (5/6/2020)
 - Email sent to students receiving Phase Two grants including the amount and disbursement method (5/15/2020)
 - Email sent to students to communicate updated taxability guidance from the IRS (6/8/2020)