

**The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

Shasta College's 30-Day Reporting for Student Portion of the CARES Act Emergency Relief Fund

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), March 27, 2020, directs institutions receiving CARES Act funding to submit a report to the Secretary of Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund ("HEERF").

The CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the HEERF allocation received from the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (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 Department 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](#).

The Certification and Agreement directs each institution applying for HEERF funds to comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and submit an initial report (the "30-day Fund Report") to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution's Certification and Agreement to the Department.

The Department of Education will provide instructions for providing the required information to the Secretary in the near future. In the meantime, each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution's primary website. The Department would like to receive the most current information from the date when the institution received its allocation for emergency financial aid grants to students, and the institution should have received its allocation within a few days after submitting the Certification and Agreement. Accordingly, the following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under and updated every 45 days thereafter:

- 1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the 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.**

Shasta College signed and submitted the Certification and Agreement form on Thursday April 17, 2020

- 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.**

Shasta College will receive \$1,836,637 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

- 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 submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).**

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As of May 18, 2020, zero dollars have been distributed. We originally anticipated disbursing on May 15, 2020, but a large number of Excused Withdrawal petitions were submitted by students between May 1 – 15, 2020. We are processing these prior to disbursement of the HEERF funds to insure that HEERF funds go to students who were still enrolled at the end of Spring 2020 (May 15). Our anticipated disbursement date for these funds is May 29, 2020.

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.

- At the passing of the CARES Act on March 27, 2020, we interpreted Cares Act language to include students who received a California College Promise Grant, resulting in approximately 7,000 students would be eligible for HEERF funds.
- While HEERF-student share dollars are not Title IV financial aid, The Department of Education's April 21, 2020 guidance states that students must meet Title IV financial aid eligibility requirements in order to receive HEERF emergency grants. That reduced the total number of Shasta College students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants down to only 2,763.

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.

As of May 18, 2020, zero students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant. Our anticipated disbursement date for these funds is May 29, 2020. A large number of Excused Withdrawal petitions were submitted by students between May 1 – 15, 2020. We are processing those prior to disbursement of the HEERF funds to insure that HEERF funds go to students who were still enrolled at the end of Spring 2020 (May 15).

6. The method(s) 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.

On May 6, 2020, the College ran an initial report to select the population of students who met the following criteria:

- Were Title IV financial aid eligible, as determined by the following:
 - Completed a 2019-20 FAFSA application
 - Completed their financial aid file (i.e., turned in any required verification documents)
- Had any amount of financial need
- Were enrolled in at least 3 units at the end of the term Spring 2020.
- Students who were already fully enrolled in online classes between January 13 – May 13, 2020 (start of the spring 2020 term and the date the President declared the Coronavirus a national emergency) were removed from this list, per Department of Education guidance issued on April 21, 2020.

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On May 19, 2020, the College will update that initial list to determine which students were still enrolled in at least 3 units as of May 15, 2020.

The College opted to distribute the HEERF funds equally among eligible students.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

There have been two direct communications to students as of May 18, 2020:

- Students who were initially deemed eligible were sent individualized emails on 5/8/20 that read:
The President of the United States signed the CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund into law on March 27, 2020. You have been identified as a student who is qualified to receive an emergency grant to help cover your "Cost of Attendance expenses" related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Cost of Attendance expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. We anticipate disbursing these funds at the end of May. The amount of the award is dependent on the number of students who are eligible to receive CARES Act funds. Currently, your expected grant amount is \$673.75. Changes in your enrollment may affect your qualification to receive this award.

We have created a "Federal CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Students" page on our Shasta College Financial Aid website to answer questions about eligibility for these funds. Please go to www.shastacollege.edu/fa to view the FAQ information.

These funds are federal assistance dollars and could be considered public benefits. Students and/or their spouses who are ineligible to receive federal public benefits should not accept these funds. Please refer to the FAQ page to determine if you should accept these funds.

If you have not received a financial aid refund from Shasta College before, we will send you a separate email with additional information about what you need to do to receive the funds.

If you have additional questions, contact the Shasta College Financial Aid Office at financialaid@shastacollege.edu or 530-242-7650.

*Sincerely,
Shasta College Financial Aid
11555 Old Oregon Trail
PO Box 496006*

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Redding, CA 96049-6006
530-242-7650
www.shastacollege.edu/fa

- Additionally, students who had not already stated a financial aid refund preference with BankMobile (our third party financial aid fund disbursement partner) received a follow up email on 5/11/20 that read:

Shasta College has determined that you are eligible to receive an emergency grant funded through the CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Grants such as this are electronically disbursed through our partner, BankMobile. According to our records, you have not yet selected a preference for how you would like to receive funds through BankMobile.

Electronic funds transfers are the most reliable, safest, and fastest way to receive your funds.

- *If we deposit funds into your existing bank account, your money will arrive 1-2 business days after BankMobile receives the funds from the college.*
- *If we deposit funds into BankMobile Vibe Checking Account your money will arrive the same business day BankMobile receives the funds from the college.*

We anticipate disbursing these funds at the end of May. If you do not select a preference by May 22, you will likely receive your funds by check via US Mail, which will be mailed to the address we have on file. It may take up to one month to receive your check by mail.

To select how you would like your grant money to be delivered:

1. Visit www.RefundSelection.com
2. Enter your BankMobile Personal Code or choose to get an instant personal code
3. Choose your preferred delivery method

If you choose to receive your refund by check, please log into MyShasta and confirm that we have your current mailing address.

Make a selection now and avoid any delays in receiving your CARES emergency grant from Shasta College.

Sincerely,

*Shasta College Financial Aid
11555 Old Oregon Trail
PO Box 496006
Redding, CA 96049-6006
530-242-7650*

www.shastacollege.edu/fa (see "BankMobile - Disbursement Schedule" on the green, left hand menu bar for more information about BankMobile)

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In addition to direct student communication, the College posted a CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions sheet to the Shasta College Financial Aid website (added at the end of this report). The FAQ appears on pages 6-8 of this document.

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**Frequently Asked Questions
CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
(student emergency grants)**

1. Who is eligible to receive these funds?

The following information is from the federal Department of Education website's FAQ for these funds: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf>
"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. If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA. Students who have not filed a FAFSA but who are eligible to file a FAFSA also 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."

2. How did Shasta College decide which students would receive these funds?

Due to the federal Department of Education's requirement that "only students who are or could be eligible" to file a FAFSA and meet the criteria to participate in federal financial aid programs under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), Shasta College focused on the following students:

- Students who had filed a 2019-20 FAFSA and had fully completed their financial aid file (e.g., completed any required verification documentation).
- Students whose FAFSA information demonstrated that the student had any amount of financial need for 2019-20.
- Students enrolled in at least 3 units at the end of the Spring 2020 term.
- Students who were already registered in fully online classes on/before March 13, 2020 (the date the President declared a national emergency) were *not* included.

3. Are students who were already fully online eligible for these funds?

No. According to the federal Department of Education, these funds are not intended for students who were already enrolled in fully online courses/programs. According to federal DOE guidance, students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date of the President's Proclamation, "Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak," are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.

4. The email I received said something about the funds may be considered "public benefits," and maybe I shouldn't accept them. What does that mean?

Current immigration law prohibits non-US Citizens who are currently pursuing (or may want to pursue) an extension of their nonimmigrant stay or change their nonimmigrant status (to US Citizenship) from accepting some forms of public benefits. In some cases, the law also prohibits the spouse of a non-US Citizen (even if the spouse may be a US Citizen themselves) from accepting public benefits. *The decision to accept or not accept these funds is yours.* For more information about this immigration law, please see: <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/public-charge> The Shasta College Financial Aid Office cannot answer questions about immigration law.

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5. Do I have to apply for these funds?

No, we are using information from your 2019-20 FAFSA already on file.

6. How much will I receive from the CARES grant?

Please log into MyShasta, click on "MyFinancialAid" and review your 2019-20 Financial Aid Award letter. The CARES emergency funds will be listed as "COVID CARES Funding" and a dollar amount. (see image on next page)

7. I can't see the "COVID CARES Funding" grant on my award letter.

Make sure you are looking at your 2019-20 award letter. If you don't see it, call our office at 242-7650.

8. When will I receive these funds?

We anticipate disbursing the funds on Friday, May 29th.

9. How will I receive the funds?

Shasta College partners with BankMobile to disburse financial aid funds ("refunds"). If you have previously received financial aid refunds, you do not need to do anything.

If you have never received a financial aid refund, PLEASE log into BankMobile's site and set up your preference for how you want to receive your funds. Your choices are:

- **Deposit to an existing account** - Your money will arrive 1-2 business days after BankMobile receives the funds from the college.
- **Deposit to a BankMobile Vibe Checking Account** - Your money will arrive the same business day BankMobile receives the funds from the college.
- **Check by mail** – a check by mail could take up to 21 days. If you choose check by mail, you MUST log into MyShasta to see if we have your current address on file. If we do not, please use MyShasta to update your mailing address. (see image on the next page)

The website to indicate your preference is: RefundSelection.com

- Enter your BankMobile Personal Code or choose to get an instant personal code
- Choose your preferred delivery method

10. I checked "MyFinancialAid" on MyShasta and realized that I never completed my 2019-20 financial aid file. If I complete it now, can I receive a CARES grant?

While CARES funding was awarded to students who were qualified as of May 6, 2020, we continue to encourage students to complete their 2019-20 financial aid file (and your 2020-21 financial aid file, too!). Completing the FAFSA is the first and necessary step, and completing your financial aid file by submitting any required "verification" documentation is the next step to be considered for many grants and scholarships. You may still be eligible for other aid for the 2019-20 academic year.

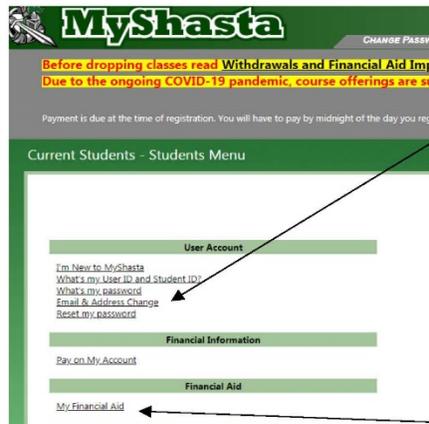
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11. Are there any other emergency funds available?

The Shasta College Foundation has a Student "Survive and Thrive" fund available. Students can apply for up to \$250 in emergency funds. Go to www.shastacollege.edu/foundation and click on the "Student Survive and Thrive Fund" button to access the application.



Check/update your mailing address

Check your 2019-20 Financial Aid Award letter to see how much your CARES emergency grant will be. Look for the award labelled "COVID CARES Funding."