

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities:

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of 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 under 18004\(a\)\(1\)](#).

This document provides reporting as required by Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act.

Note that Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, and Western Connecticut State University are providing separate reporting on the CARES Act funds.

1. Each of the listed institutions 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.

<u>IHE</u>	<u>OPEID</u>
Asnuntuck CC	01115000
Capital CC	00763500
Gateway CC	00803700
Housatonic CC	00451300
Manchester CC	00139200
Middlesex CC	00803800
Naugatuck Valley CC	00698200
Northwestern CT CC	00139800
Norwalk CC	00139900
Quinebaug Valley CC	01053000
Three Rivers CC	00976500
Tunxis CC	00976400

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:

IHE	Amount received or will receive
Asnuntuck CC	607,719.00
Capital CC	1,016,011.00
Gateway CC	2,148,362.00
Housatonic CC	1,725,435.00
Manchester CC	1,617,601.00
Middlesex CC	661,690.00
Naugatuck Valley CC	1,909,764.00
Northwestern CT CC	301,133.00
Norwalk CC	1,594,831.00
Quinebaug Valley CC	444,524.00
Three Rivers CC	1,126,615.00
Tunxis CC	1,092,753.00

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 initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

IHE	Amount disbursed as of 12/31/20
Asnuntuck CC	607,713
Capital CC	1,016,008
Gateway CC	2,148,344
Housatonic CC	1,725,435
Manchester CC	1,617,589
Middlesex CC	661,681
Naugatuck Valley CC	1,909,749
Northwestern CT CC	301,131
Norwalk CC	1,594,830
Quinebaug Valley CC	444,521
Three Rivers CC	1,126,596
Tunxis CC	1,092,744

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:

IHE	Estimated total number of students eligible
Asnuntuck CC	1,156
Capital CC	2,681
Gateway CC	5,565
Housatonic CC	3,849
Manchester CC	4,153
Middlesex CC	1,824
Naugatuck Valley CC	4,587
Northwestern CT CC	1,020
Norwalk CC	3,355
Quinebaug Valley CC	1,130
Three Rivers CC	3,114
Tunxis CC	3,127

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:

IHE	Number of unique students who have received a grant as of 12/31/20
Asnuntuck CC	1,156
Capital CC	2,681
Gateway CC	5,565
Housatonic CC	3,849
Manchester CC	4,153
Middlesex CC	1,824
Naugatuck Valley CC	4,587
Northwestern CT CC	1,020
Norwalk CC	3,355
Quinebaug Valley CC	1,130
Three Rivers CC	3,114
Tunxis CC	3,127

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.

Spring 2020 Students: For the Community Colleges listed above, all students with a Spring 2020 FAFSA on file were eligible. Students who were eligible on all criteria except the student did not file a FAFSA for Spring 2020 were asked to sign an attestation form. Each eligible student received a grant in the following amounts:

IHE	Per-student grant
Asnuntuck CC	\$ 494.48
Capital CC	\$ 391.98
Gateway CC	\$ 390.54
Housatonic CC	\$ 461.22
Manchester CC	\$ 361.15
Middlesex CC	\$ 340.38
Naugatuck Valley CC	\$ 391.26
Northwestern CT CC	\$ 273.26
Norwalk CC	\$ 386.63
Quinebaug Valley CC	\$ 420.16
Three Rivers CC	\$ 362.49
Tunxis CC	\$ 337.17

Fall 2020 Students: For the Community Colleges listed above, all students with a Fall 2020 FAFSA on file were eligible. Each eligible student for Fall 2020 received a grant in the following amounts:

IHE	Per student grant
Asnuntuck CC	296.22
Capital CC	137.76
Gateway CC	178.49
Housatonic CC	185.31
Manchester CC	235.74
Middlesex CC	223.27
Naugatuck Valley CC	232.41
Northwestern CT CC	179.50
Norwalk CC	301.49
Quinebaug Valley CC	200.15
Three Rivers CC	168.07
Tunxis CC	186.15

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

Community college students received the following information on or around May 6, 2020:

Dear Students,

We are writing to inform you of our plans to distribute CARES Act emergency grants. The U.S. Department of Education recently issued guidance on distribution of these emergency grants to students, requiring that all recipients be Title IV eligible. This means that students must have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application for the 2019-20 academic year. To satisfy the Department of Education's guidance, we will only be issuing grants to students who have met the Title IV eligibility requirements by completing a FAFSA and have satisfied all outstanding requirements related to completing a FAFSA. Completing a FAFSA does not mean a student has to be in receipt of financial aid. A completed FAFSA is one that fully determines a student's eligibility for a Pell Grant, including the federal Expected Family Contribution calculation.

In addition, the following students will **not** be eligible for the CARES Act emergency grants:

- Students exclusively enrolled in non-credit courses
- CSCU employees attending classes for free (not student workers) and students on dependent waivers
- Second Chance Pell students
- High School Partnership/Dual Enrollment students
- Undocumented, DACA, International students

We plan to begin issuing payments to eligible students next week. If you have not already done so, please sign up for Direct Deposit to expedite distribution of funds at <https://my.comnet.edu>

Students who signed an attestation form as to their eligibility signed the following:

You have been identified as a student who did not submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA"), but may be eligible to receive emergency assistance through the CARES Act which has established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund "HEERF".

Eligibility to receive HEERF emergency cash assistance from a Connecticut State College or University is dependent upon whether you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- You were enrolled at one of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities in Spring 2020.
- You are not currently enrolled in elementary or secondary school.
- You matriculated in a degree or certificate program during the Spring 2020 semester.
- You are maintaining satisfactory academic progress.
- You are not in default on any Federal student loan.
- You do not owe a refund Title IV grants received from any CSCU institution or any other college or university.
- You are a United States citizen or national, a permanent resident of the United States, or eligible noncitizen.
- You have not been convicted of, or plead guilty or nolo contendere to a crime involving fraud in obtaining Federal student aid.
- You have not fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess amounts of annual or aggregate loan limits.
- You have repaid Title IV amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits if obtained inadvertently.
- You have a valid social security number.
- You have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- If required, you have registered for the Selective Service and You have not been convicted for the possession or sale of a controlled substance while you were receiving Federal student aid.

Please log on to myCommNet to sign the attestation form by August 31, 2020. If you have not already done so, please sign up for Direct Deposit on myCommNet to expedite your emergency assistance.

If you meet all of the above criteria and want to receive HEERF emergency cash assistance you must sign the attestation below:

ATTEST:

I hereby attest under penalty of perjury that:

- I have read the criteria for eligibility to receive HEERF emergency aid;
- I meet all of the criteria and am eligible to receive HEERF emergency aid; and
- I want to participate and request HEERF emergency aid.

ATTEST:

Yes

No

Submit

Reset

[Return to the Self Service Main Menu](#)

For the Fall 2020 disbursement, students received the following email:

From: COVID 19 CARES Funds/Grants <noreply@everbridge.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 2:37 PM
To:
Subject: COVID-19 CARES Act

The following is a message from the myCommNet ALERT System for the CSCU System office in Hartford.

Dear Students,

We are writing to inform you of our plans to distribute CARES Act emergency grants to students enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester.

The U.S. Department of Education issued guidance on distribution of these emergency grants to students, requiring that all recipients be Title IV eligible. This means that students must have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application for the 2020-2021 academic year.

To satisfy the Department of Education's guidance, we will only be issuing grants to students who have met the Title IV eligibility requirements by completing a FAFSA and have satisfied all outstanding requirements related to completing a FAFSA. Completing a FAFSA does not mean a student has to be in receipt of financial aid. A completed FAFSA is one that fully determines a student's eligibility for a Pell Grant, including the federal Expected Family Contribution calculation.

Please note the following important terms of the grant:

- This grant is to be used as direct assistance for expenses related to the disruption of your studies during the Fall 2020 semester, such as: food, housing, materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.
- This grant will not be reduced by any outstanding balance on your account.
- This grant does not impact your financial aid award.

The checks and direct deposits are/were being issued during the weeks of 12/14 and 12/21.

Please contact your college's Bursar/Business Office with any questions.

Thank you.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.