

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

### Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Dickinson State University (DSU) signed and returned the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act on April 17, 2020. DSU intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students. DSU received \$320,047, under the HEERF student portion, on May 5, 2020. Initial reporting completed on June 3, 2020. Required 45 day updated reporting completed on July 16, 2020. All future updates are quarterly starting at September 30 and every 3 months after.

As of the date of this reporting, June 3, 2020, \$200,150 has been distributed to 310 students. It has been estimated that 520 students currently meet the eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

DSU determined that the best way to identify students for the emergency funding was through a hardship application process. Students had the opportunity to select a block grant for \$300, which was later increased to \$500, or give rationale for additional funding. DSU also identified groups of students who incurred expenses directly related to the disruption of campus due to the coronavirus. This includes students who lived in residence halls and students who were scheduled to attend a France Study Tour with non-recoverable expenses.

DSU opened a second hardship application process to identify students who had expenses related to the disruption of campus operation due to COVID-19. The second application was open June 16 through June 24. Through this application process, DSU has disbursed the remaining CARES grant funding to students. A total of \$320,047 has been disbursed to 351 students.

Distribution of funds: If eligible and approved, CARES Act funding is disbursed directly to students via direct deposit, if enrolled, or via check mailed to the student's address listed in Campus Connection if not enrolled in direct deposit. DSU must disburse CARES Act grants directly to students and may not apply the grant toward any outstanding institutional charges.

Quarterly Update (September, 25, 2020): DSU has exhausted all funding received from the US Department of Education under the student portion of the CARES Act grant. The remaining funds were disbursed to students on June 29, 2020, through the second hardship application process.

#### Instructions, directions, and guidance provided to students by DSU:

Dickinson State University (DSU) has announced a process for the distribution of emergency grant funding for DSU students, related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The CARES Act, passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19, includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that provides more than \$14 billion in emergency funding to higher education. Of those funds, more than \$6 billion have been set aside for students in the form of emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 crisis, including but not limited to food, housing, healthcare, childcare, technology and course-related materials. Dickinson State is expected to receive about \$320,000 in funds to distribute to students in financial stress.

Dickinson State University has opened an online application, available May 1 – 15, for students who qualify based on the Department of Education guidelines to obtain emergency relief funding. Applications will be considered in the order they are received and funds will be awarded as they are available.

Per Department of Education guidance, only students who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended may receive these funds. 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 status; 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.

To ensure Title IV eligibility, students must have an eligible 2019-2020 FAFSA on file with Dickinson State University. If they have not yet submitted a 2019-2020 FAFSA, they may do so at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

*Due to requirements of the Department of Education, students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date of National Emergency declaration, are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.*

To access the application, students should log in to their [DSU Blackboard account](#), click the “My DSU” tab, and navigate to the Blue Hawk Hub, where they will find further instructions.

For questions or clarification, please contact DSU’s Office of Financial Aid:

- Phone: 701- 483-2371
- Call or Text: 701-561-0904
- Email: [dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu](mailto:dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu)

Instructions, directions, and guidance provided to students by DSU for the second application process:

Dickinson State University (DSU) is opening a second hardship application process for emergency grant funding, related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, including but not limited to food, housing, healthcare, childcare, technology and course-related materials.

The application will be open from June 16 – 24. If a student has already applied during the first application process and received funding, they are encouraged to also apply during the second application process, as long as they remain eligible and still have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Due to requirements of the Department of Education, students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date of National Emergency declaration, are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.

Per Department of Education guidance, only students who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) may receive these funds. 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.

To ensure Title IV eligibility, it is preferred that the student has an eligible 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 FAFSA on file with Dickinson State University. If you have not yet submitted a FAFSA, you may do so at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> . \*Students who choose not to fill out a FAFSA, but otherwise meet Title IV eligibility, may submit a voluntary Title IV Self-Disclosure Form available upon request. Please send requests to [dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu](mailto:dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu).

To be eligible to receive funds from the second hardship application process, the student must have been enrolled at Dickinson State University in the 2020 spring semester on March 13 **AND** the student must either be enrolled in the 2020 summer semester **OR** are enrolled, or plan to enroll, in the 2020 fall semester.

There are a limited amount of funds available and funds will be awarded as they are available. Applications must be received by June 24, 2020.

To access the application, students should log in to their [DSU Blackboard account](#), click the “My DSU” tab, and navigate to the Blue Hawk Hub, where they will find further instructions.

For questions or clarification, please contact DSU’s Office of Financial Aid:

- Phone: 701- 483-2371
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As a reminder, The United Way of Dickinson and Dickinson State University are also working together to support DSU students who are impacted by COVID-19. DSU students who are facing financial difficulty during this time of uncertainty can apply for

assistance. The United Way has established a support fund as a dedicated resource for individuals affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

For more information, or to apply for assistance, contact United Way of Dickinson's executive director, Nichole De Leon at [unitedway@ndsupernet.com](mailto:unitedway@ndsupernet.com).