

# CARES Act Higher Education Relief Fund

## REPORTING DISCLOSURE



This document provides the necessary information to comply with 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.

**Institution Name:** Cornerstone University

**Date of report:** May 21, 2020

The Institution has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement document under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Total amount of funds the institution has received from the Department for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students: **\$757,146**

TOTAL AMOUNT of Emergency Financial Aid Grants DISTRIBUTED to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this report: **\$757,146**

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: **1,186**

TOTAL NUMBER of STUDENTS who HAVE RECEIVED an Emergency Financial Aid Grant: **1,186 as of May 22, 2020.**

Method(s) used by the institution to determine WHICH STUDENTS receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and HOW MUCH they would receive:

- + A group of university representatives from Student Financial Services, Student Development, and all three academic programs (traditional undergrad, Professional & Graduate Studies, and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary) worked on a method to determine which students would receive the HEERF grants. Because the intention was to promptly assist as many students as possible and understanding that all students were facing additional living and academic expense pressure due to the change in the academic delivery method, it was unanimously decided to provide a grant to all eligible students giving need priority to resident students who were inconvenienced the most after the university closed the residence halls.

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Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

- + On April 28 the following email was sent to students who were otherwise eligible, but had not filed a FAFSA to establish their Title IV eligibility:

Dear Student,

It is our privilege to inform you that the federal government, through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will be providing grant funds to Cornerstone University to be passed on to eligible students. These funds are to be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care.

These funds are available only to students who are eligible for federal financial aid, as evidenced by having filed the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA). According to our records, you have not filed a FAFSA this year.

If you have incurred any expenses due to the disruption of campus operations and would like to be eligible for this grant funding, please complete a FAFSA at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) no later than Sunday, May 3, 2020.

You may choose to file the 2019-20 FAFSA (using your 2017 income information) or the 2020-21 FAFSA (using your 2018 income information). Be sure to list Cornerstone University as your school of choice, and we will receive your information in 3-5 business days. So that Student Financial Services is aware of your intent, please email [carol.carpenter@cornerstone.edu](mailto:carol.carpenter@cornerstone.edu) immediately after submitting the FAFSA.

If you have questions, please contact [carol.carpenter@cornerstone.edu](mailto:carol.carpenter@cornerstone.edu).

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No students responded directly to Carol Carpenter as a result of this email. On May 4 the Student Financial Services office reviewed all ISIRs received since April 28 and compared them to the list of students who had received the email and confirmed that none of these students had filed a FAFSA to establish eligibility.

On May 1, the following announcement was posted to the My.Cornerstone portal and the Student Financial Services Facebook page:

UPDATE: As you may have heard in the media, the federal government, through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will be providing grant funds to Cornerstone University to be passed on to eligible students. To be eligible for the grant students must meet all eligibility requirements for federal Title IV financial aid and not enrolled in an online program. These funds are to be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care.

Cornerstone has chosen to not require any additional application for these funds, and we will be distributing them to all eligible students as quickly as possible. In the next couple of weeks you will be

receiving an email with more information if you are eligible. We desire to have all of the funds distributed by June 1, 2020.

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Based on the federal Title IV financial aid eligibility criteria, it was determined that 1,184 students across all university academic programs were eligible for the HEERF grant. Here is the breakdown of the number of recipients and the associated grant amount:

- + 542 Traditional Undergrad Resident students: \$738.68 each
- + 304 Traditional Undergrad Commuter students: \$554.01 each
- + 150 GR Theological Seminary students: \$554.01 each
- + 190 Professional & Graduate Studies students: \$554.01 each

To notify the eligible students that the grants would be distributed the week of May 18, the following email was sent to all eligible students on May 7:

Dear Student,

It is my privilege to inform you that the federal government, through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, has provided grant funds to Cornerstone University to be passed on to eligible students. These funds are to be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care.

You are eligible for this grant in the amount of \$.....

To help us with getting these grant funds to you as quickly as possible, please set up direct deposit if you have not already done so. This is a separate direct deposit process from on-campus employment. This will expedite the process for you to receive your funding.

Follow these steps:

- Go to My.Cornerstone
- Under Tools, click on Webadvisor
- Select Student
- Select Bank information (U.S.) - on the right side
- Complete form
- Agree to terms
- Submit

If you do not wish to sign up for direct deposit, a check will be mailed to you at the address that we have on record. Our plan is to distribute the funds the week of May 18, 2020.

If you have any questions, please email me at [carol.carpenter@cornerstone.edu](mailto:carol.carpenter@cornerstone.edu).

Sincerely,

Carol Carpenter, Director of Student Financial Services