

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund – Student Aid Overview and Data

In response to the national state of emergency declared on March 13, 2020, on March 27, 2020, the president signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, in order to address urgent financial needs created by the coronavirus pandemic.

On April 9, 2020, the Department of Education released information directing institutions of higher education to apply for CARES Act funds allocated to Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations.

The application portal opened on April 10, 2020, and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay was eligible for \$1,752,466 in emergency funds for student aid. The institution applied for these funds on April 10, 2020, by signing and returning to the Department a Certification and Agreement including an assurance that the institution intends to use the entirety of this amount to provide emergency financial aid grants to students. The funding was received on April 23, 2020, and was processed while the institution was finalizing distribution mechanisms and details.

Student Applications for HEERF Awards

On May 6, 2020, UW-Green Bay's website (uwgb.edu/coronavirus/emergency-grant) provided instructions, guidance, and an application form for students to request emergency funds. Students were informed of the available funds and application process through multiple methods including email, video and Chancellor's newsletter, as well as announcement on the University's COVID 19 website.

The application process to confirm eligibility and determine funds awarded proceeded in two steps: confirmation of student eligibility and confirmation of expense eligibility. Any student eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 ("title IV eligible") was also eligible for a CARES Act emergency grant. A review of students enrolled for the spring 2020 semester that met Title IV eligibility requirements was done and a list of eligible students compiled. UW-Green Bay enrolled an estimated 4,625 students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Eligibility of expenses was determined via the application process, in which students provided documentation of expenses incurred on or after March 13, 2020, and related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Those applications and expenses were reviewed in relation to Cost of Attendance (COA) items to determine how much each student receives. Applications that indicated financial need but did not meet these eligibility criteria were declined CARES Act funds but then reviewed for funding through other internal sources of emergency assistance.

The first University of Wisconsin-Green Bay CARES Act awards to students were approved on May 7, 2020. By May 22, 2020, in its first 30 days, UW-Green Bay had received 695 applications and approved 468 awards to 454 students for a total of \$521,551. By July 6, 2020, which is 45 days after May 22, UW-Green Bay had received 1,078 applications and approved 735 applications from 667 students for a total of \$815,239.

University Identification of Students with Highest Need

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay recognized that students faced many challenges during this pandemic. After assessing the effect of CARES Act awards made to UWGB students in response to the application process, it was determined that many students with highest need were not applying to receive funds. A supplementary process for awarding funds to these students without requiring an application was devised. In order to provide timely assistance to students who have already been identified as having financial need through the FAFSA application, UWGB developed a Phase II, batch approach to awarding CARES funds. The goal of the batch award was to identify high need students who were enrolled for the spring term, and to provide a total of \$625 in emergency funds to the group. In addition, a small amount of CARES funding was reserved for future requests. For students to be eligible to receive funds through this batch approach, they had to:

- be enrolled for Spring 2020 as a degree seeking graduate or undergraduate;
- be enrolled in at least one in person class for the term;
- meet Title IV eligibility (Satisfactory Academic Progress, no eligibility issues); and
- have a 2019-20 Expected Family Contribution of \$5,577 or less (Pell-eligible for undergraduates)

On July 22, 2020, UW-Green Bay made 1,339 awards via this process, totaling \$814,850. The 1,294 students who had not submitted an application for emergency funds were awarded a total of \$802,500, while the 45 students who were on the highest need list and had already received a CARES Act award represented \$12,350 of this total. Also, an additional 44 awards totaling \$50,978 continued to be made through the application process, including 25 to new students and 19 duplicate students, thus bringing the total awards to 2,118 to 1,986 individual students for a total \$1,681,067 as of July 22, 2020.

Application Process Awards Continued to Account Depletion

Following the batch award event, applications continued to be accepted for the remaining funds, which was through August 25, 2020. Therefore, as of September 30, 2020, through its application process UW-Green Bay had received 1,360 applications and approved 865 awards to 725 individual students for a total of \$937,616 and had funded \$814,850 to an additional 1,294 unduplicated students (and 45 duplicated students) through the batch award process. Therefore, a total of 2,204 awards were made to 2,019 individual students, who received UWGB's full allotment of \$1,752,466 in CARES Act Student Aid funds.

Student Aid CARES Act Funding Summary

(Award # P425E200542; application submitted April 13, 2020, funds awarded April 23, 2020)

- Amount of funds received: \$1,752,466
- Amount of funds expended: \$1,752,466 (all funds awarded)
- Activities/Items covered (Emergency Grants to Students):
 - 1,360 applications received and 1,339 batch awards, totaling 2,699
 - 865 applications approved and 1,339 batch awards, totaling 2,204
 - 725 individual students receiving funds and an additional 1,294 students receiving batch awards, totaling 2,019 individual students receiving support
 - Number of jobs created: not applicable
- Number of subcontracts/subgrants: none

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)
and
American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (ARP)
Student Aid Overview and Data

Through the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay was eligible for \$1,752,466 in emergency funds for student aid. The institution applied for these funds on April 10, 2020, by signing and returning to the Department a Certification and Agreement including an assurance that the institution intends to use the entirety of this amount to provide emergency financial aid grants to students. A total of 2,204 awards were made to 2,019 individual students and all CARES Act Student Aid funds were distributed as of September 30, 2020.

Through the **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)**, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, received an additional \$1,752,466 on January 19, 2021, bringing the total of Student Aid funds to \$3,509,932. On March 5, 2021, a total of \$1,752,466 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants was distributed to 2,804 students, thus expending all CRRSAA Student Aid funds.

For the first round of CARES funding, both an application and batch process were used to distribute funds. For the CRRSAA Funds, a batch process was used to distribute all funds. It was decided to distribute awards of \$625 per student as that was the amount distributed to students during the batch process for the first round of CARES Funding. The following criteria had to be met to be eligible:

- Degree-seeking
- FAFSA on file for Aid Year 2021 (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
- No citizenship or Social Security Administration holds
- Show exceptional need
- Half time or greater for Spring 2021
- SAP eligible

First priority was given to 'Pell Eligible' students, defined as students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of up to \$5,711. This group of students received about 75% of the funds. In order to reach and assist the most students, another group of students that had an EFC from \$5,712 to approximately \$11,000 was identified. No application was required. A batch process was used to distribute all CRRSAA funds. Students that were awarded the grant received an email notification from the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management.

Through the **American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (ARP)**, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, received an additional \$6,209,312 on May 24, 2021, bringing the total of Student Aid funds to \$9,713,244. As of June 30, 2021, ARP funds had yet to be distributed and it was estimated that approximately 3,400 or more students at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs.

On August 12, 2021, 643 students having a Pell eligible EFC of up to \$5,846 received a batch award of \$625 each, for a total of \$401,875. On September 08, 2021, 2,914 batch awards to students with an EFC of up to \$11,500 were made of \$1,500 each, for a total \$4,371,000. During the quarter of June 1-September 30, 3,560 awards were made to 2,986 unduplicated students, totaling \$4,774,750 in Student Aid funds. Throughout Oct-Dec 2021, an additional 112 awards totaling \$165,162 were made to eligible students. As of December 31, 2021, a total of \$8,445,354 in Student Aid funds has been distributed and it was estimated that approximately 3,940 or more students at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs. In the period of

January-March 2022, an additional 1,109 awards were made totaling \$1,290,717. Also, during that period previous payments of 26 uncashed checks totaling \$32,875 were cancelled due to recipients not cashing them within the requested period; the funds were then redistributed to eligible students during that same time period.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)

Funding Summary

(Award # P425E200542 - 20A; funds awarded *January 19, 2021*)

- Amount of supplemental funds received: \$1,752,466
- Amount of supplemental funds expended: \$1,752,466 (all funds awarded)
- Activities/Items covered (Emergency Grants to Students):
 - 2,803 batch awards of \$625 each, totaling \$1,751,875
 - 1 batch award of \$591, totaling \$591
 - Total: 2,804 totaling \$1,752,466
- Number of jobs created: not applicable
- Number of subcontracts/subgrants: none

American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (ARP)

Funding Summary

(Award # P425E200542 - 20B; funds awarded *May 24, 2021*)

- Amount of supplemental funds received: \$6,208,312
- Activities/Items covered: (Emergency Grants to Students)
- Amount of supplemental funds expended as of March 31, 2022:
 - 643 batch awards of \$625 each, totaling \$401,875
 - 805 batch awards of \$850 each, totaling \$684,250
 - 3,025 batch awards of \$1,500 each, totaling \$4,537,500
 - 303 batch awards of \$2,000 each, totaling \$606,000
 - 1 batch award of \$467 and 1 of \$1,047, totaling \$1,514
 - Total: 4,778 awards totaling \$6,198,264
- Number of jobs created: not applicable
- Number of subcontracts/subgrants: none

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