

**CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants to Students Fund  
Report 9/15/20  
North Park University**

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States Signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), providing emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the funds North Park University received under the HEERF on April 22, 2020 for Emergency Financial Aid to students under Award No. P425E200431.

**CERTIFICATION**

North Park University signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 11, 2020. North Park University used no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**AWARD**

North Park University received a total of \$2,332,872 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF. \$1,166,436 has been distributed directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the Coronavirus. These funds are from the Department of Education and pursuant to our Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

**FUNDS DISTRIBUTED**

As of 09/15/20, North Park University has distributed 100% of the \$1,166,436 to 1,266 students in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. \$1,007,400 was distributed to 948 students in Group 1 as described below under methodology, and \$155,000 was distributed to 310 students in Group 2 as described below in methodology. These funds were distributed by 6/30/2020.

*The remaining \$4,036 was distributed to 9 students as emergency technology grants using a separate methodology, also described below, as part of a process that also included the distribution of \$169,840 received under Section 18004(a)(2) - CARES Act Emergency Relief Fund to Minority Serving Institutions.*

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

On 4/22/20, North Park University has an estimate of 1,825 students 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, and in academic programs at North Park University deemed eligible for the student emergency aid.

*For the 9 students receiving emergency technology grants in August of 2020: Only students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Traditional undergraduate students meeting this eligibility, enrolled in the fall semester of 2020, and receiving 50% of the full Pell grant amount or higher were deemed eligible to receive cash grants for technology purposes using these funds.*

## METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY

Title IV eligible students were awarded funding using the following methodology:

**1) Group 1:** Full-time traditional undergraduate students and undergraduate students in the School of Professional Studies (SPS) with an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of \$9,000 or less (based on the maximum EFC for Illinois MAP grant eligibility) are awarded grants of \$1,100. Part-time degree-seeking traditional undergraduate students and undergraduate students in SPS with an EFC of \$9,000 or less are awarded grants of \$500. There is no application process for these students.

**1) Group 2:** Undergraduate students with an EFC higher than \$9,000 and graduate students in academic programs deemed eligible for the student emergency aid are eligible to submit an appeal for emergency funding in the amount of \$500 by identifying expenses they have incurred related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID 19.

*For the 9 students receiving emergency technology grants: As of 7/17/20, North Park University had 486 students meeting the eligibility criteria outlined above. The method and factors used to determine eligibility with the intent of awarding grants to students with the most financial need and barriers to enrollment and retention related to technology were:*

- *Enrollment in the Fall semester of 2020*
- *Enrolled as a traditional undergraduate student*
- *Demonstrating significant financial need by being awarded 50% or more of the maximum Pell grant amount*
- *Completion of an Academic Technology Grant Application, indicating technology expenses related to coronavirus.*

## INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS

### **First Communication sent to Group 1: students with an EFC of \$9,000 or Less:**

Dear Student:

As a result of the federal government-established CARES Act, North Park University has received funding to provide emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as housing, child care, health care, and food. These funds are to be given as cash payments directly to students who are Title IV-eligible.

The University has determined that, based on your need, you are eligible and prioritized for an emergency grant. Eligible, prioritized full-time students will be receiving \$1100. Eligible, prioritized part-time students will be receiving \$500.

For you to receive these funds as quickly as possible, please go online to Self Service, [www.northpark.edu/selfservice](http://www.northpark.edu/selfservice), and provide your account information in the Banking tab. Disbursements will be made every Friday, and you will receive the funds shortly thereafter. If you do not have a bank account, please reply to this email, and arrangements will be made to issue you a paper check.

### **First Communication sent to Group 2: undergraduate students with an EFC of greater than \$9,000 and graduate students in programs deemed eligible for aid:**

Dear Student:

As a result of the federal government-established CARES Act, North Park University has received funding to provide emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as housing, child care, health care, and food. These funds are to be given as cash payments directly to students who are Title IV-eligible.

Unfortunately, we are not able to give funds to every student. Priority was given to those students who exhibited the most need as a result of filing the 2019-2020 FAFSA. However, we have set aside a portion of our funding to allow additional students to apply for a \$500 emergency grant. If you have qualified expenses related to the disruption of campus, please complete this appeal form. The funds will be given on first come, first served basis.

**Communication to students in Group 2 who completed and submitted the Appeal Form who submitted banking information:**

Dear Student,

Your appeal for a \$500 CARES Act Emergency Grant has been approved. We will process your disbursement on Friday. If you have provided us with banking information, then you will see your funds in your account next week. If a paper check is being issued for you, then you should receive it in the mail within the next week to 10 days.

**Communication to students in Group 2 who completed and submitted the Appeal Form who submitted banking information:**

Dear Student,

Your appeal for a \$500 CARES Act Emergency Grant has been approved. However, we cannot process your request as you have not provided the University with direct deposit information. Please go online to Self Service, and provide your account information via the Banking Information tab. Your information **MUST** be provided by 5 P.M. TOMORROW (Wednesday) in order for your request to be processed this week. If it is not received on time, then your request cannot be processed until next week. As a reminder, you **MUST** add and maintain your banking information online through Self Service. We will not accept your information via email, nor should you **EVER** email your account details to anyone.

*The following email communication was sent out to all students deemed eligible for emergency technology grants on 7/17/20:*

*As a result of the federal government-established CARES Act, North Park University has received funding to provide **\$500 Academic Technology Grants** (funds that do NOT need to be paid back at a later date) to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations and greater use of technology due to COVID-19, such as a personal laptop/tablet, educational software, webcam, home internet service or other technology needs related to the campus disruptions.*

*North Park has a limited number of \$500 Academic Technology Grants available for Fall 2020. These funds will be given on first-come, first-served basis until all available funding has been distributed. Priority has been given to those students who exhibited the most need as a result of filing the 2020-2021 FAFSA. **You have been identified as eligible to receive an Academic Technology Grant. You must complete this [Academic Technology Grant Application](#)** in order to certify your needs for this grant.*

*After your Academic Technology Grant Application has been reviewed, you will be notified directly by email that your application has been received and if you've been awarded a \$500 Academic Technology Grant.*

**Returning Students** to North Park who are eligible for the CARES Technology Grant will begin receiving their direct payments on **Friday, July 31st**.

**Incoming/new students** to North Park will be notified of their Tech Grant beginning on July 22nd. Because of CARES Act enrollment restrictions, the payments will be distributed on **Friday, September 4th**.

*We hope that these funds will assist you as you prepare for the Fall 2020 semester.*

*Please let us know if you have any questions.*