

Xavier University CARES Act Student Aid Report (5/29/2020) (updated Feb. 2021)

PR/Award No. P425E203584

Introduction

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides 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 first funding received, Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

Xavier University submitted the signed U.S. Department of Education’s Certification and Agreement for these funds on April 24, 2020, and we received our grant award notification on May 2, 2020. In keeping with the terms of the certification, Xavier will 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 directly to students.

Total Award

Xavier received a total of \$3,122,063 under Section 18004(a) (1) of the HEERF, of which at least \$1,561,032 will be provided directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus.

Funds Distributed to Date

As of the close of business on May 27, 2020, 12 days after inviting students to request the funds—Xavier has awarded \$151,750 in direct grants to students.

Student Eligibility

The total number of Xavier students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore eligible to receive CARES Act emergency financial aid grants is 4,230*. Of those students, 115 were awarded as of May 29, 2020.

Note: The number of eligible students excludes those ineligible for Title IV aid (e.g., non-degree seeking students enrolled in dual credit courses, non-U.S. citizens) as well as those enrolled exclusively in online programs prior to March 13, 2020, which the U.S. Department of Education deemed ineligible to receive CARES Act funds.

Process for Awards

Xavier created an online grant application in which each student indicates: 1) whether they were impacted financially by the coronavirus, and 2) what specific financial needs they have in each area (food, housing, technology, course materials, health/child care, and other costs). The Dean of Students Office and the Student Emergency Fund Working Group evaluate each application based on the information provided, and funds are awarded based on each student’s identified needs and the availability of funding. If students are eligible to receive funds and identified legitimate needs, grants of up to \$1,500 are approved.

Information Given to the Students

In accordance with the Secretary of Education's instructions for institutions to issue aid to students as soon as possible under the student aid portion of the CARES Act HEERF, Xavier emailed students on May 15, 2020. A letter was emailed to our 1182 Pell-eligible and near Pell-eligible students to encourage Xavier's highest need students to apply and to all Xavier students, regardless of their eligibility, to inform them of the availability of funds under the CARES Act.

Xavier also shared information about the CARES Act funding with faculty and staff through our University portal so they can encourage students that need assistance to apply. On the Dean of Students' website there is a link to the application and FAQs. Students that are not eligible for the CARES Act funds, or who may require additional assistance are encouraged to apply for the Xavier Student Emergency Fund.

The following information was shared with students in the emails and the [FAQs](#) are available through the Dean of Student's website:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Application process and period,
- A link to the online application,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Acknowledgement of the federal government as the source of funding.

Copies of the following instructional/informational materials given to the students include the following, which are attached to this report:

1. Email sent Pell-eligible and near Pell-eligible students dated May 15, 2020
2. Email sent to all Xavier students on May 29, 2020
3. Xavier's CARES Act Informational/Instructional webpage link
4. Application students are required to complete to access the funds

Update as of February 2021

*This number was updated from 4,229 to 4,230 in February 2021 when a review of data was done while completing the annual report.