

Missouri Southern acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to 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 to Students.

The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students = \$2,378,137.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (*i.e.*, as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter) = \$2,378,137.

The 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 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.^[1] = 3,500 students.

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act = 3,236.

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Students eligible for grants under the Federal CARES Act are those who:

1. were not enrolled in an exclusively online program prior to March 13, 2020,
2. experienced a disruption in campus operations due to COVID-19 pandemic, and
3. are eligible for federal student aid and comply with the following federal requirements:
 - Are enrolled in degree, certificate program, or other eligible program.
 - Have a high school diploma or equivalent credential (and not currently enrolled in elementary or secondary school).
 - Are making satisfactory academic progress requirements.
 - Have no owed overpayments from any federal student grant or loan.
 - Are not in default on any federal student loan.
 - Have an SSN.
 - Are a citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.
 - Have not been found guilty of any fraud relating to the federal student aid program, or have made restitution if convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to such charges.
 - Have not fraudulently obtained federal student aid funds in excess of annual aggregate limits; if obtained inadvertently, returned those funds.
 - Are in compliance with the U.S. Selective Service registration requirements, if applicable.
 - Are not currently incarcerated.
 - Have no federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants can be found here: <https://emergency.mssu.edu/modifications-to-student-support-areas.php#heerf3>

Notifications to Students:

- [EMAIL TO STUDENT CARES ACT GRANT RECIPIENTS](#)
- [EMAIL TO STUDENT CARES ACT GRANT RECIPIENTS FINAL ROUND](#)
- [EMAIL TO ALL CAMPUS CARES Act](#)

These federal grants will be disbursed to eligible students by the MSSU Bursar via electronic refund or a paper check by mail. Students should have a valid bank account setup for electronic refund at www.mssu.edu/paymybill

Or

Ensure their mailing address is correct with the MSSU Registrar. Students can update mailing address [here](#).

Please review the FAQ items below for additional guidance.

- **Why did I get this money?**
 - The U.S. Department of Education made Federal CARES Act funds available to students who incurred expenses as a result of COVID-19 related disruptions to their campus operations. MSSU identified eligible students that have been adversely affected by COVID-19 disruptions to normal campus operations.
 - Eligible students received a \$650 Federal CARES Act grant beginning May 2020 until funds are exhausted, and before the one-year expiration date.
 - Eligible students received a second distribution of \$85 in July 2020 to further exhaust available funds.
 - Recipients were notified via a message to their MSSU email account.

[EMAIL TO STUDENT CARES ACT GRANT RECIPIENTS](#)

[EMAIL TO STUDENT CARES ACT GRANT RECIPIENTS FINAL ROUND](#)

[EMAIL TO ALL CAMPUS CARES Act](#)

- **Which students are eligible for Federal CARES Act grants?**
 - Federal CARES Act grant funds will be awarded as a block grant to students who meet these criteria:
 - Pursuing an MSSU degree program (including undergraduate, graduate, certificate)
 - Eligible to file Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. (e.g., be eligible to receive federal financial aid funds such as the Pell Grant, TEACH Grant, Direct Loans, etc.) –see federal student aid requirement list above
 - Enrolled in at least 3 credit hours towards a degree-seeking program at MSSU as of 3/13/20
 - Not enrolled in an exclusively online program on or prior to 3/13/20
- **I got this money as a refund. Does this mean my MSSU account balance has been paid off?**
 - No. Distribution of Federal CARES Act funds is made directly to students and not applied by the University toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by the student. As such, receipt of these funds does not indicate the recipient has satisfied their financial obligations to MSSU for any debts incurred during the spring 2020 term or any terms prior. Please check your current account balance in LionNet to determine what you may still owe.
- **Can I use this money to pay off my MSSU balance?**
 - Yes. MSSU is not authorized to apply Federal CARES Act funds toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by a student. However, once the funds are received as a refund, students may choose to

use the funds to pay off their outstanding account balance.
Bursar@mssu.edu 417.625.9381 www.mssu.edu/paymybill

- **Can MSSU just apply the funds to my account balance with my approval or permission?**
 - No. Federal regulations stipulate that all Federal CARES Act funds must be disbursed directly to the student and may not be applied toward outstanding balances. To use these funds to pay an outstanding balance with MSSU, a student must make a payment to their account through the Bursar's Office.
Bursar@mssu.edu 417.625.9381 www.mssu.edu/paymybill

- **Am I eligible to receive Federal CARES Act funds if I am not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards?**
 - No. Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that students not meeting Financial Aid SAP standards are not eligible for Federal CARES Act fund distributions.

- **Are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students eligible for Federal CARES Act funds?**
 - No. Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that students must be eligible to submit a FAFSA in order to qualify for the Federal CARES Act funds. This limits eligibility to U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or other Title IV eligible non-citizens.

- **Are International students eligible for Federal CARES Act funds?**
 - No. Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that students must be eligible to submit a FAFSA in order to qualify for the Federal CARES Act funds. This limits eligibility to U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or other Title IV eligible non-citizens.

- **Do I have to pay this money back?**
 - No. Any funds a student receives from the Federal CARES Act will not need to be repaid.

- **Does this money count against my financial aid package?**
 - No. Grant funding from the Federal CARES Act is not considered financial assistance under federal statute, nor U.S. Department of Education regulations. As such, these funds will not impact your eligibility for regular financial aid (e.g., grants, scholarships, loans).

- **Is money received from the Federal CARES Act considered taxable income?**
 - This grant is not includable in a student's gross income. Emergency financial aid grants under the Federal CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - In addition, because the emergency financial aid grant is not includable in a student's gross income, students are not able to claim any deduction or credit for expenses paid with the grant including the tuition and fees deduction, the American Opportunity Credit, or the Lifetime Learning Credit. See section 139(h) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - All students are encouraged to talk with a personal tax professional relating to any questions you may have about the treatment of the funds.

- **If I do not qualify for any Federal CARES Act funding are there any other emergency funds for which I can apply?**
 - Students should contact the MSSU Financial Aid Office to see what options are available in your particular situation. finaid@mssu.edu 417.625.9325

* *Note:* For the initial report and each report thereafter, institutions should use data suppression and other methodologies to protect the personally identifiable information from student education records consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([20 U.S.C. 1232g](#); [34 CFR part 99](#)). This means that if the total number of eligible students or the total number of students who received Emergency Financial Aid Grants is less than 10, but not 0, then the institution must display the total number of students eligible and/or the total number of students who received Emergency Financial Aid Grants as less than 10 (“< 10”) on the publicly available websites controlled by the institution.

Institutions that accurately report the information listed above will meet the initial reporting requirements under Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act. Institutions that the Department determines have not met the reporting requirement as described in this notice may, consistent with the Department's authority to monitor grantee compliance, be subject to appropriate enforcement actions, up to and including being determined to be ineligible for certain other CARES Act program funding. For other subsequent reports for this program and other related HEERF programs, the Department will notify participating institutions of the Department's preferred reporting method. The Department may choose to collect additional information from institutions in accordance with the reporting requirement in Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and the Certification and Agreement.

For more information on the HEERF, please visit the Department's CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund page at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.