Angelo State University CARES Act Student Aid Report #1 (5/9/2020)

PR/Award No. P425E200004

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 award Angelo State University (ASU) received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

ASU reviewed, signed, and returned the U.S. Department of Education's Certification and Agreement for these funds on April 10, 2020, and we received our grant award notification on April 17, 2020. In keeping with the terms of the certification, ASU 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

ASU will receive a total of $6,359,561 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF, of which at least **$3,179,781** 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 8, 2020—just two weeks after inviting students to request the funds—ASU has awarded **$2,414,224** in direct grants to students.

Student Eligibility

The total number of ASU 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 **5,319**[1]. Of those students, **1,944** have received an award as of May 8, 2020.

Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

ASU created an online grant application in which each student indicated: 1) whether they had been impacted financially by the coronavirus, and 2) what specific financial needs they have in

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[1] 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.

each area (food, housing, technology, course materials, health/child care, and other costs). The Financial Aid office evaluated each application based on the information provided, and they awarded funds based on each student's identified needs and the availability of funding. If students failed to provide sufficient documentation regarding their needs, the Financial Aid office contacted them to obtain additional information before issuing an award.

Provided that the students were eligible to receive funds and identified legitimate needs, grants of up to $1,500 were automatically approved. To ensure the availability of funds for as many needy students as possible, mid-level managers and senior administrators reviewed requests exceeding $1,500 to determine the necessity for and feasibility of providing larger awards.

Instructions or Directions 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, Interim President Angie Wright sent ASU students, faculty, and staff advance notice of the program on Monday, April 20.

Thereafter, ASU's Office of Communications and Marketing sent an email message to all students, regardless of their eligibility, to inform them of the availability of funds under the CARES Act on April 23, 2020. ASU also communicated the same information via its newly created CARES Act webpage and as an announcement in RamPort, ASU's student information portal. Staff emailed additional notices to students through the beginning of May to ensure they had multiple reminders of and opportunities to request financial support.

These communications contained the following information:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Application periods,
- 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 in the order listed:

1. Email announcement of funds and application soon to be available dated April 20, 2020
2. Email notification: Availability of funds and link to application dated April 23, 2020
3. Screen shots of the full application for funds, including instructions, students were required to complete to access the funds
4. ASU's CARES Act Informational/Instructional webpage

Dear Ram Fam,

I hope this finds you safe and well.

As you may have heard, Angelo State University has received federal funding from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. This is good news in a time that your lives have been disrupted in so many ways.

A large portion of the CARES Act funding is intended to provide emergency aid to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare – needs that may be difficult to meet while continuing studies in this environment or due to other mitigating circumstances such as loss of employment due to the pandemic.

We are working quickly to get this emergency funding to currently enrolled students to help with the rest of the spring semester - April and May. We are currently preparing a simple grant application that we will email students.

Funding will be distributed based on the completion of this grant application. Our goal is to get these emails out as soon as possible.

Later on, we will send a separate grant application for the upcoming summer terms.

Students, please check your Angelo State email account regularly. Once you receive the email with this application, make sure you answer the questions accurately and completely and then submit the application. We won't know that you need funds unless you submit the form.

We are pleased that our federal legislators understand what so many of you are going through and made these grants possible. They do not require repayment. We hope this helps relieve some of the stress and financial burden during uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Angie Wright
Interim President

Angelo State University
Member, Texas Tech University System
#AngeloState #RamFam

Dear student,

We know this semester has been challenging, but we hope you are safe and well.

We have good news! As announced on Monday April 20th, ASU has received federal funding from the CARES Act. We now have the grant application available and we are ready to start awarding grants to those students that qualify.

The CARES Act provides funding for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. You can request funds you need in these categories:

- Food
- Housing
- Course Materials
- Technology
- Health Care
- Childcare Expenses
- Other Expenses (Expenses that do not fit any of the above)

You can request funds for the remainder of the spring semester – **April** and **May**. After your application is received, we will contact you within 7 days at your angelo.edu email address to either notify you of your application approval or ask for more information. New grant applications can be submitted in June and July for expenses related to Summer I and II.

For more information and to determine your eligibility, visit angelo.edu/cares.

We are thankful that these funds have been made available for you by our nation's leaders, and we look forward to receiving your grant application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at financial.aid@angelo.edu, 325-942-2246 or 800-933-6299 (toll free).

Submit CARES Grant Application

All the best,

Becky Brackin
Director
Office of Communications and Marketing
Angelo State University

Member, Texas Tech University System
#AngeloState #RamFam

Personal Information | Student Services | Employee | FERPA/Proxy

Questions

Answer the questions.
Choosing Next Question displays the next question.
Selecting Finish Later saves your answers and takes you out of the application/survey. You can finish the application/survey later, even returning to questions you have skipped.
Choosing Submit saves a completed application/survey.
Selecting Decline to Answer All Questions eliminates viewing that application/survey. Any answers you have given will not be saved.

Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 1:

We know the spring semester has been full of challenges for you.

We are happy to announce that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will provide money to Angelo State that will be passed along to you.

By submitting this application, you can ask for funds for the months of **April** and **May**. Later on, we will send applications for summer expenses.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at financial.aid@angelo.edu, 325-942-2246 or 800-933-6299 (toll free).

○ I understand this application is for April and May only

[Next Question] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

RELEASE: 8.7

Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 2:

Keep the following in mind as you apply for funds:

- Include only expenses that cannot be covered by other resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Your request will be denied if you do not fully complete your application or provide requested documents.
- We will email you at your ASU email address with a decision about your request. Please allow up to 7 days for your application to be reviewed and paid.
- Any grant funds you receive will be refunded just like other credit refunds.

🔘 I understand I may be required to provide documentation

[Next Question] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

RELEASE: 8.7

Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 3:

How have you been affected by COVID-19 Pandemic (check all that apply)?

- Please use the comment field below to provide any details that will support your application for funding. You must provide information in the comment box, do not leave the comment section blank or your application will be mark incomplete.
- If you have not been impacted by COVID-19 please click the "Decline to answer all questions button

☐ Student loss of job
☐ Parent / Spouse loss of job(s)
☐ Additional expenses due to on-line learning
☐ Medical expenses not covered by insurance
☐ Other

2000   characters remaining

[Next Question] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

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Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 4:

Do you need money for food?

○ Yes - I need money for food, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for food

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

[   ]

2000 characters remaining

[Next Question] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

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Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 5:

Do you need money for housing?

○ Yes - I need money for housing, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for housing

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

[   ]

| 2000 | characters remaining

[Next Question] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

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Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 6:

Do you need money for course materials?

○ Yes - I need money for course materials, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for course materials

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

2000   characters remaining

| Next Question | Finish Later | Submit | Decline to Answer All Questions |

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Questions

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Choosing Next Question displays the next question.
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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 7:

Do you need money for technology?

○ Yes - I need money for technology, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for technology

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

[text area]

2000   characters remaining

[Next Question]   [Finish Later]   [Submit]   [Decline to Answer All Questions]

RELEASE: 8.7

Questions

Answer the questions.
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Question 8:

Do you need money for health care?

○ Yes - I need money for health care, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for health care

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

2000   characters remaining

[Next Question]   [Finish Later]   [Submit]   [Decline to Answer All Questions]

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Personal Information Student Services Employee FERPA/Proxy

Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 9:

Do you need money for child-care?

○ Yes - I need money for child-care, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for child-care

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

2000   characters remaining

[Next Question] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

RELEASE: 8.7

Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 10:

Do you need money for other expenses?

○ Yes - I need money for other expenses, enter amount below
○ No - I will not be needing money for other

$ Amount - *required if you answered Yes above*

2000   characters remaining

| Next Question | Finish Later | Submit | Decline to Answer All Questions |

RELEASE: 8.7

Personal Information | Student Services | Employee | FERPA/Proxy

Questions

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Application/Survey: ASU Spring 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Application

Question 11:

Certification - I understand and acknowledge that Angelo State University is relying on the information I provide herein to determine eligibility for CARES Act funding. I certify that the information I have provided is true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

○ Yes - I certify that my responses are true and correct

[Return to Beginning of Application/Survey] [Finish Later] [Submit] [Decline to Answer All Questions]

RELEASE: 8.7

CARES Act [web page]

ASU has received federal funding from the [CARES Act](), which provides assistance for student expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Students can request funds in these categories:

- Food
- Housing
- Course Materials
- Technology
- Health Care
- Childcare expenses
- Other Expenses (Expenses that do not fit any of the above)

Am I eligible?

You may be eligible for CARES Act funding if you are a degree-seeking student enrolled in at least one face-to-face course during the 2020 spring semester.

International, dual credit, non-U.S.-citizen, non-degree-seeking students, and students enrolled exclusively in online courses prior to March 13, 2020 are not eligible for CARES Act funding.

How do I apply?

The 2020 spring semester CARES Act grant application is now closed. The grant application for expenses related to the 2020 **Summer I** semester will be available beginning on **May 15**. The grant application for expenses related to the 2020 **Summer II** semester will be available beginning on **June 29**.

FAQs

- What is the CARES Act?

  The [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act]() is federal legislation that provides a variety of financial support to individuals and organizations affected by the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic.

  The CARES Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that provides more than $14 billion in emergency funding to higher education. Of those funds, more than $6 billion must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants (HEERF-student share) for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Angelo State University will receive a total of $6,359,561 of which at least half ($3,179,781) must be provided directly to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care. The other half may be used by the university to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.

- How much will I receive?

  We are committed to assisting all eligible students that may have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to the greatest extent possible with the CARES Act funds available. You should request funds based on your actual financial need for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care, for the time period of the emergency. The actual amount each student will receive is based on the number of applications received and the funds available.

  The amount that you were approved for can be found in RamPort. Select Financial Aid & Billing, then "View Bill", and submit 2020 Spring Semester. The amount will display as CARES Act Refund.

- How will I receive this money?

  Emergency grants will be processed through student accounts.

  If you have an ASU One Card, you will receive your funds via Bank Mobile. You can monitor the status by visiting www.ASUOne.com.

  If you do not have an ASU One Card, you will receive an email notifying you of when your funds are available from the Student Accounts office.

- Do I need to repay the money?

  No, you will not need to repay any money received through this fund.

- Can I apply for funding more than once?

  If you received CARES funding in the spring, you are still eligible to apply in the summer. New grant applications can be submitted in May and June for expenses related to Summer I and II.

- Does this funding affect my other financial aid?

  No. This is an emergency grant to help you manage unexpected expenses related to the coronavirus, and it will not have any impact on other financial aid you may be eligible to receive.

- What if I still have an account balance?

  Any CARES Act funding awarded to you will be paid to you directly, and it will not cover any outstanding balances owed to Angelo State. Any outstanding balance owed to ASU will remain the responsibility of the student.

- Are the Emergency Grants taxable?

  It is unclear at the moment. If we receive updated guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department, we will add that here.

Questions?

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid with any questions about CARES Act funding.

- financial.aid@angelo.edu
- 325-942-2246
- Toll-free: 800-933-6299

This emergency student aid program is funded by a $3.18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the CARES Act (PR/Award no. P425E200004).

The preceding information was copied from https://www.angelo.edu/cares