

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students
September 30, 2020 – quarterly update

(The following disclosure is in compliance with HEERF reporting as required in the Office of Postsecondary Education’s Electronic Announcement 2020-05-06 and last updated 9/28/2020.)

Winthrop University signed a certification with the US Department of Education agreeing to use no less than 50% of our allocation from the CARES Act to provide emergency grants to students. Winthrop University was allocated \$5,382,130, of which \$2,691,065 is the minimum allocation for emergency student aid grants. Emergency student aid grants were disbursed under the name CARES Act Emergency Grant beginning May 5, 2020. In the first 30 days, Winthrop disbursed \$2,456,050 to students. Through the CARES appeal process, Winthrop University has awarded an additional \$11,550 to bring the total awarded amount to date to \$2,467,600.

The following federal guidance was used to determine eligibility to receive funds:

Only students who filed a FAFSA for the 2019-20 year are eligible; DACA students, international students, and others who did not file a FAFSA are not eligible.

In addition to filing a FAFSA, undergraduates and graduate students must be degree seeking and have been enrolled through the end of the Spring 2020 semester; three exceptions to the degree-seeking requirement at Winthrop are Counseling and Development Certificate, Dietetics Internship, and Winthrop Think College.

Per Department of Education guidance, graduate students must be enrolled in campus-based programs; therefore, those enrolled in Winthrop’s 100% online programs are not eligible for this funding.

Based on the above, 3,835 students were initially eligible for emergency assistance. An addition 21 students have received grants through the appeal process. For Pell-eligible undergraduates, the amount of the assistance was \$750 per student. Non-Pell-eligible undergraduates received \$550, the same amount that went to eligible graduate students. These emergency assistance grants were disbursed directly to students regardless of their account balances with the university. These funds were processed, and direct deposits/checks were distributed.

Students who have not graduated, who did not file a FAFSA, but had expenses related to COVID-19, and wish to file a FAFSA before June 30, 2020, may do so and submit a CARES appeal for consideration. Submitting a FAFSA and appeal does not guarantee funding.

Students should contact the finaid@winthrop.edu if they have questions about their eligibility for CARES Act emergency funds, to inquire about submitting a FAFSA, or about the appeal process.