

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT
HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND -- STUDENT RELIEF
SECOND AND FINAL FUND REPORT
JULY 10, 2020

Thomas Jefferson University (“TJU”) submits this report (the “Second and Final Fund Report”) in accordance with its reporting requirements under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) and pursuant to its receipt of funds designated for Student Relief through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). The Second and Final Fund Report conforms to requirements set forth in the Certification and Agreement, submitted by TJU on April 24, 2020, and the U.S. Department of Education Guidance on “Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students” published on May 6, 2020¹. The Second and Final Fund Report follows the initial report, posted on May 25, 2020 (the “Thirty Day Report”).

1. An acknowledgement 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.

As set forth in the Thirty Day Report, Thomas Jefferson University submitted the required certification and agreement on April 24, 2020. In doing so, TJU committed to using not less than 50% of the total institutional award to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

2. 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.

Thomas Jefferson University received \$2,120,092 to award Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

3. 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 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

TJU has distributed the full \$2,120,092 to students in the form of Emergency Financial Aid Grants. All grants to students were made on or before June 30, 2020.

4. 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.

Based on the TJU total number of students who applied for Title IV aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the 2019-2020 academic year, it is

¹ The Department’s May 7, 2020 guidance may be found at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>.

estimated that approximately 6,503 students are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and therefore, contingent upon available funding, would be eligible to receive CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

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

TJU awarded Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 1,286 students.

6. 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.

As set forth in the Thirty Day Report, TJU established a CARES Act Grant Policy and Procedure Committee that included membership from the Provost Office, Legal Affairs, Internal Audit, Financial Aid, Registrar, Student Accounts, Student Affairs and Information Services and Technology. This Committee, which is a subset of the overarching CARES Act Committee, developed the policy and procedures for the evaluation of applications, including the development of a rubric for scoring standard questions related to: loss of income, housing, utility, technology, medical, childcare, and other educational and personal expense needs. TJU's online application also filtered applicants in accordance with Department of Education eligibility requirements, such as U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen, enrollment in a program that is not entirely online program, and/or enrollment in a degree granting program.

Applicants were required to respond to the questions, as noted above, and awards were calculated based on the applicant's total rubric score. Students could apply for the federal maximum of grant of \$6,195. However, in an effort to ensure that the greatest number of eligible students received funding, TJU capped individual awards at \$3,000.

The initial application process closed on May 19, 2020. Once those applications were processed, and appeals addressed, applications were reviewed for those students who applied after May 19, 2020 using the same process and procedure for determining awards.

Following the application process, and the resolution of all student appeals, the CARES Act Grant Policy and Procedure Committee awarded additional Emergency Financial Aid Grants to its neediest students as determined based on Pell eligibility.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

As set forth in the Thirty Day Report, Thomas Jefferson University sent an email to all students, who were enrolled as of spring 2020, which advised of the availability of the funding and provided a direct link to the online application. The email also included the Department of Education eligibility criteria and a direct email address COVID19CaresAct@jefferson.edu where students could submit specific questions related to the application process. This email and dedicated email address were further

supplemented by the dedicated website:
https://www.jefferson.edu/coronavirus/cares_faq.html

Based on the number of applications, a second notice was sent on May 18, 2020 to students enrolled in the spring 2020 semester who had yet to submit an application. The email informed those students that due to the high volume of applications received, it was necessary to close the application process in the near term. Students who applied after that time received a message advising them that the application was now closed. Students who submitted their initial applications after May 19, 2020, were asked to reapply during the second round, which was completed on or before June 30, 2020. Throughout the process, students were asked to send follow-up questions via email to the dedicated email address referenced above.