

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FORT KENT

CARES Act Funding Under Section 18004(a)(1) – Higher Education Emergency Relief Student Portion

Report for HEERF II Quarter ended 9/30/21

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education
Award Number: P425E201773
Award Amount: \$313,019
Report Period: 7/1/2021 - 9/30/2021
Report Date: 10/6/21

Source and Purpose of Funds

On January 14, 2021 the Department of Education released notification that Congress approved a COVID Relief bill - which included an additional round of student emergency relief funds to be distributed to students. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) the University of Maine at Fort Kent will be allocated \$1,353,803 from the US Department of Education (allocation referenced as HEERF II) of which \$313,019 must be used for student aid.

Eligible Students

All degree seeking students will be considered initially eligible. This cohort does not include Non Degree, Dual Credit, or Employees who receive a tuition waiver. Based on current guidance international students are still ineligible to receive these funds and are not included in this cohort. For distribution method #1, students need to be enrolled for the spring 2021 term. For distribution method #2, this current enrollment requirement does not apply.

Distribution Methodology

1) Approximately fifty percent (50%) of the Student Aid Award, a currently expected amount of \$156,175, will be distributed in two tiers of flat amounts to those who have high or moderate need as determined by the financial aid measurement Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).

Estimated Family Contribution \$0 to \$5,711: High Need: \$400 (approx. 320 students)

Estimated Family Contribution \$5,712 to \$25,000: Moderate Need, \$175 (approx. 161 students)

2) Approximately fifty percent (50%) of the Student Aid Award, an estimated \$156,844, will be awarded through a Student Affairs committee to address exceptional need as determined through an application process.

In the event final calculations vary from the intended amounts, the difference will first be adjusted between the two methods, then covered by HEERF II Institutional Funds as needed.

Disbursements to Date

Distribution Type	Number of Students to Which Aid Has Been Distributed	Total Amount of Aid That Has Been Distributed	Amount of Funds Remaining for Disbursement
Based on EFC	481	\$156,175	\$0
Application	53	\$145,919	\$10,925
Total Students Awarded	498	\$302,094	\$10,925

All distributions to students will be made via direct deposit or check, unless specifically requested in writing to apply to student account. Because the IRS considers the HEERF student funds as a “qualified disaster relief payment”, they are not considered taxable income.

Communication to Students

- 1) For the flat (EFC) portion: Financial Aid office will send explanation of impending payment to message center. Payments will be made via check or direct deposit.
- 2) For the Application portion there are two documents:
 - a) Letter distributed from President’s Office to students:

“January 22, 2021

Dear Student:

The University of Maine at Fort Kent has been allocated funding through the CARES Act “Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021.”

The purpose of this funding is to give financial assistance to students with exceptional need. Money received by students under this grant can be used for:

- 1) Any component of cost of attendance (including being applied directly to your bill if requested – see application for details), OR
- 2) Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

UMFK will prioritize grants to students based on need, with highest priority given to those demonstrating exceptional need.

To apply, please submit an application here <https://forms.gle/SvqSoc9wKbHogVzf6>.

Students selected to receive funds will be notified of award amounts at their @maine.edu email address.

Please apply as soon as possible. Review will begin immediately, but may be lengthy depending upon the number of applications, and will continue until all funds have been disbursed.

If you would like to receive your payment directly, make sure either you are set up for direct deposit or your current mailing address is correct in MaineStreet.

If you are unable to complete the application electronically, please email or call Student Affairs to request a PDF version of the application at umfk.studentaffairs@maine.edu.

Sincerely,
Deb Hedeem
President”

b) Application document:

“UMFK has been allocated funding through the CARES Act "Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021". The purpose of this funding is to provide financial assistance to students, prioritizing those requests that demonstrate the most need.

UMFK Cares Fund allocations can be used to cover the following expenses:

- *Any component of cost of attendance (including your tuition/student bill)*
- *Housing or rent*
- *Food or other essential needs*
- *Emergency medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance*
- *Temporary support costs for a student in a dangerous situation due to threats or acts of violence*
- *Medication/Prescription expenses*
- *Safety related needs (i.e. changing locks, short term emergency shelter)*

Priority for UMFK Cares funds will be given based on:

- *The urgency of the situation*
- *The student’s overall financial status and level of hardship*
- *Whether other resources/available support have been exhausted*

These funds are provided in the form of a grant that does not need to be repaid.

If you'd like a link to the application, you can view it by clicking [here](#). Please let us know if there's anything else we can assist with.”

Students at the end of the application are asked to check either of the following two options:

“By checking this box, I agree that any funds allotted to me will be directly applied to my student bill and I will contact Amanda Pelletier at amanda.pelletier@maine.edu to confirm this arrangement,” OR

“I prefer to have any funds allotted to me disbursed directly to me and the University should NOT apply my allotment directly to my student bill.”