

University of Maine at Fort Kent

CARES Act Funding Under Section 18004(a)(1) – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 50% for Student Aid

45-Day Report

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education

Award Number: P425E201773

Award Amount: \$313,019

Report Period: 04/24/2020–6/22/2020

Report Date: 6/22/2020

Source and Purpose of Funds

The University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK) received the above award from the CARES Act passed by Congress on March 27, 2020 to provide emergency financial aid grants to eligible students for their expenses related to the disruption of our campus operations due to coronavirus.

On April 17, 2020, UMFK submitted the required [Certification and Agreement](#) to the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE) committing to use these funds to provide emergency aid directly to our eligible students.

Eligibility Requirements

Consistent with the guidance from the U.S. DOE, eligible students include all students who were enrolled at UMFK on March 13, 2020 and are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), with the following exceptions:

- Non-degree seeking students
- International or DACA students
- Employees receiving UMS Employee Tuition benefits
- Early College students
- Students enrolled in exclusively online programs as of March 13, 2020

Students who did not have a FAFSA on file with the university were able to complete a self-certification form, attesting under the penalty of perjury to meeting the requirements of Section 484 of the HEA.

Distribution Plan

Consistent with the other institutions within the University of Maine System, of which UMFK is a part, and in acknowledgement that every one of our students experienced disruption when COVID-19 forced all courses to be transitioned to online delivery, UMFK will automatically distribute 85% of these funds

to all eligible students. Award amounts will be tiered as follows based on the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled as of March 13, 2020:

- .1 – 5.99 Credit Hours: \$200
- 6 – 11.99 Credit Hours: \$300
- 12+ Credit Hours: \$580

The remaining 15% of the CARES student aid is being made available by application to eligible students who self-identify with additional need as a result of the disruption to campus operations caused by COVID-19. As we communicated to our students on May 5, 2020, eligible students may apply for those funds here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzckHxYin6M7mmhE_vpKIDmpAilpQtz-BDm_FRtP6W51quKA/viewform

In some cases, emergency funds may have been supplemented with a portion of CARES dollars intended for institutional relief.

All distributions to students will be made via direct deposit or check. Because the IRS considers the CARES student funds as a “qualified disaster relief payment,” they are not considered taxable income.

Disbursements to Date

Distribution Type	Number of Eligible Students	Number of Students To Which Aid Has Been Distributed	Total Amount of Aid That Has Been Distributed	Amount of Funds Remaining for Disbursement
Automatic	520	520	\$255,340	\$10,620
Application	520	86	\$47,059	\$0
Total	520	520	\$302,399	\$10,620

Communications to Students

Below are communications from the University of Maine System or UMFK to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants provided through the CARES Act.

- <https://www.maine.edu/health-advisory/community-guidance/students/>
- <https://www.umfk.edu/files/cares/ums-student-letter/>
- <https://www.umfk.edu/files/cares/umfk-student-letter/>
- <https://www.umfk.edu/files/cares/umfk-may-12-email/>
- <https://www.umfk.edu/files/cares/umfk-may-17-email/>
- <https://www.umfk.edu/files/cares/umfk-june-1-and-june-3-email/>