
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or “Act”). The Act specifically allocated \$12 billion to assist colleges and universities across the country with half of those funds reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. Lincoln College of Technology (“LCT”), Columbia, Maryland, received a portion of these funds that LCT is required by law to send directly to eligible students.

In addition, LCT was required to sign a Certification and Agreement in order to access funds under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”) program. This Certification and Agreement requires each institution applying for HEERF funds to comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act.

Further, Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281, directed institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary of Education) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the HEERF. That information was to appear in a format and location that was easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter.

Subsequently, on August 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education, published additional guidance in the *Federal Register* that institutions such as LCT must update the use of funds distributed from the HEERF no later than 10 days after the end of a calendar quarter beginning with the quarter ending September 30. This information can be found below:

1. LCT signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”) the Certification and Agreement that assures our 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.
2. LCT has received \$574,774 from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
3. LCT has distributed \$540,750 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of September 30, 2020.
4. LCT has determined that approximately 692 students at the institution were 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.
5. 691 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
6. The Department provided guidance that stated students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. The Secretary of Education for the Department also requested each institution develop a methodology for the amount each eligible student receives prioritized by financial need. LCT followed the Department’s guidance by issuing the Emergency Financial Aid Methodology to attend any LCT campus.
7. Information and guidance provided by LCT to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants can be found at www.lincolntech.edu/CaresAct.

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