

# CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

## Quarterly Report - FINAL

### October 21, 2020

*Each institution applying for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund ("HEERF") funds is directed to comply with Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") and submit an initial report (the "30-day Fund Report") to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution's Certification and Agreement to the Department. Institutions are also required to submit an updated report (the "45-day Fund Report") every forty-five (45) days thereafter. Clarion University's '45-Day Fund Report' information follows:*

1. **Acknowledgement:** Clarion University signed and returned to the Department of Education the executed "Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act" on April 14, 2020. The University 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 for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.
2. **Amount of Funding Received:** The University received notice on April 24, 2020 that it had received an award of \$1,612,138 from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. **Amount of Funding Distributed to Students:** 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 this report is \$1,613,240.
4. **Estimated Number of Eligible Students:** As of June 17, 2020, 2,602 students enrolled in the 2019-2020 Spring semester filed a FAFSA, were identified as 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. **Method Used to Determine Which Student Received Emergency Financial Aid Grants:** Clarion adopted a block grant approach to disburse the funds to its eligible students.

After verifying student Title IV eligibility and establishing effective means for distribution, On May 14, 2020, Clarion sent an email to all students, and posted a notification in the news section of our university website notifying the campus community of the available funding. The release may be found at <https://www.clarion.edu/news/2020/may/CARES-Act-aids-Clarion-University-students.html>. A copy of the letter sent to students was added to the Student Financial Services webpage devoted to COVID-19 Updates at <https://www.clarion.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/covid-19-student-financial-services-updates.html>.

As of May 12, 2020, 259 students enrolled in the 2019-2020 Spring semester did not file a FAFSA and were potentially eligible. The University instructed these students to complete a FAFSA by June 15, 2020 for eligibility determination if they wished to receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Initially, 2,582 students received a \$550 Emergency Financial Aid Grant on May 14, 2020, under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Funds disbursed weekly to eligible students as Clarion received and reviewed the newly filed 2019-2020 FAFSAs. As of June 17, 2020, twenty (20) of the 259 students completed the 2019-2020 FAFSA and were awarded the initial \$550 grant.

6. As of June 22, 2020, funds remained of the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. Clarion University elected to distribute the remaining funds equally amongst all awarded eligible students. Each student received an additional \$70 in grant funds for a total individual award amount of \$620. Clarion university added additional funds to make up the difference in the funding amount received of \$1,612,138 and the total amount awarded of \$1,613,240.

7. As of September 30, 2020, 79 students who received their CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds have not cashed their checks totaling \$18,030. The expiration date of the checks is 180 days from the issue date. Clarion University is attempting to contact the students to confirm receipt of the check(s).
8. On October 15, 2020, Clarion granted a student's appeal of nonattendance for the spring 2020 term. This does not alter the \$1,612,138 awarded to students due to the University contributing some of their own funds. It does adjust the number of students awarded to 2,601.