

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

CARES Act Reporting: September 30, 2020

Tennessee State University (TSU) acknowledges that it signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement assuring the Department that it plans 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.

Tennessee State University's total allocation under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is \$7,214,661 of which \$3,607,331 will go towards Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The emergency funds for students will be used for students' expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. As of September 30, 2020, \$3,119,700 in blanket grants has been disbursed to 4,365 students. Additional grant funding will be provided to students through the TSU CARES Act Grant Request form.

The estimated total number of TSU students 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 is 4,721. To date, 4,335 Tennessee State University students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. TSU maintains that all students (who were not enrolled exclusively in online courses for the spring 2020 semester) had unplanned expenses due to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, with Pell grant eligible students having greater financial need. Thus, blanket grants were provided to eligible students as outlined below:

Student status	Amount
Undergraduate (Pell grant eligible), enrolled in at least 6 hours for the Spring 2020 semester	\$800
Undergraduate (non-Pell grant eligible), enrolled in at least 6 hours for the Spring 2020 semester	\$600
Graduate, enrolled in at least 5 hours for the Spring 2020 semester	\$500

The following e-mail was sent to TSU students on May 8, 2020 with details about the distribution of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Dear TSU Student:

This email provides information pertaining to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act, signed into law on Friday, March 27, 2020, makes available funding to the states and emergency funding for universities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on each university's operations.

With respect to students, the CARES Act includes funding to colleges and universities to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic. The CARES Act recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic and the related sudden transition to online education, as well as other required changes, affected most students. This funding is separate from additional refunds or financial aid you may receive from Tennessee State University. It is also separate and apart from the housing and meal refunds that you may have received in April 2020. TSU has implemented a model for distributing CARES Act funds to both graduate and undergraduate students. The TSU funding model will award CARES Act funds to students based on Title IV eligibility in the following manner:

- Graduate students will receive a one-time grant of \$500.
- Undergraduate students who are not PELL Grant eligible will receive a one-time grant of \$600, if they are eligible to participate in a Title IV financial aid program.
- Undergraduate students who are PELL Grant eligible will receive a one-time grant of \$800.
- Eligibility Note: The University will award grants only to students who are eligible to participate in a Title IV financial aid program.
- Eligible students do not have to take any action to receive the funds.

Students with existing direct deposit accounts with TSU will receive grants electronically. All other students will receive a check mailed to their address on file. Electronic grant disbursements and physical check disbursements will occur on May 8, 2020.

TSU will update you on any additional funds that become available through the CARES Act or other new federal or state sources. If you have any questions, please call the Bursar's office at 615-963-5472.