

CARES Act General Report

05/26/2020

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus”. This report provides details on the emergency funds that Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology (TSCT) received under the HEERF to provide to students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING & CERTIFICATION

TSCT signed and submitted the Department of Education Certification and Agreement on April 10th, 2020 and received the funds on May 26th, 2020. Under 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, the total amount allocated to the College is \$1,866,667. No less than 50 percent of these funds, totaling \$933,334 will be distributed to students as per the terms of the certification.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

TSCT will receive a total of \$1,866,667 for the institutional and student shares. Fifty percent of that amount will be distributed to students.

At this time, TSCT has not distributed any funds to students.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility requirements for students to receive the funds are as follows:

1. Be enrolled in a degree or certificate program for the Spring 2020 semester through the end of the term.
2. Be eligible for Title IV as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. Have a valid FAFSA on file with the college by May 22, 2020.
4. Be making satisfactory academic progress.
(<https://stevenscollege.edu/financialaid/sap/>)
5. Not owe an over-payment on Title IV grants or loans.
6. Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
7. File "as part of the original financial aid application process" a certification that includes
 - a. A statement of educational purpose.
 - b. Student's SSN.
8. Be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.

9. Have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of or plead guilty or no contest to charges.
10. Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits.
11. Have repaid Title IV loan amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits if obtained inadvertently.
12. Have Selective Service registration verified.
13. Have Social Security Number verified.
14. Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.

There are a total of 1048 students at the institution 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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The college has provided the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guidance on the website for students.

Q: Do I need to complete an application to receive the CARES Act funding through HEERF?

A: No, no formal application is needed. The college has determined that all students have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus. The students who are eligible based on the eligibility requirements previously mentioned will receive these funds.

Q: Is a FAFSA required to determine eligibility?

A: Yes, a valid FAFSA must be received by the college by May 22, 2020. Please keep in mind it takes approximately 3-5 days for the college to receive a FAFSA once submitted (fafsa.ed.gov).

Q: Am I still able to complete a FAFSA now if I previously waived the requirement?

A: Yes, a FAFSA is still able to be submitted. The college must receive the FAFSA and determine the student is eligible for Title IV funds by May 22, 2020.

Q: How much money will I be receiving?

A: Each student will receive the same amount of funding. The amount will be determined once a file count has been made of those who meet the eligibility requirements on May 22, 2020.

Q: How will I receive the funds?



A: The funds will be disbursed by a paper check that will be mailed to the home address that the college has on file.

COMMUNICATION TO STUDENTS

On May 9, 2020, the following email was sent to 150 students who did not complete the FAFSA or who waived the FAFSA requirement for the 2019-2020 academic year. This email explained the fund requirements and that the student would need to have the FAFSA submitted by May 22, 2020.

Hello (student):

Our records indicate that you have not yet completed your 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or have waived the requirement for the FAFSA.

Recent guidance from the Department of Education indicates that in order for a student to receive funding through the CARES Act for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), the student must be eligible to receive Title IV funds.

What this means, is that we would need a valid 2019-2020 FAFSA completed and received by the college by **May 22, 2020** in order to determine if you meet the qualifications to receive a portion of these funds. Please keep in mind that it takes 3-5 days for the college to receive the FAFSA once it has been completed.

You will need your 2017 tax return information available when working through the application.

If you need assistance completing the application, please contact us. We are here to help you. The best way to reach us currently is by email at financialaid@stevenscollege.edu.

Sincerely,

Office of Financial Aid