



**Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CARES REPORT**

The Department of Education is requiring each institution who is participating in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) to make easily accessible to the public – via the institution’s website – the following information:

- An acknowledgment that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and that the institution has used or intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50 percent of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Okaloosa Technical College acknowledges that we signed and returned our certification on May 1, 2020. Total allocation amount of \$393,300.00, request was for first 50 percent amount of \$196,665.00 in the form of Emergency Financial Aid Funds to disburse directly to students.

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- The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Okaloosa Technical College received \$196,665.00 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students on or about May 8, 2020.

Okaloosa Technical College received \$196,665.00 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for institutions on or about June 9, 2020.

- Of those funds, the total amount that has been distributed to students as of the date of reporting (i.e., the first 30-day deadline, and then 45 days thereafter).

As of May 28, 2020, Okaloosa Technical College has distributed funds to students who were determined eligible based on the USDOE guidance in the amount of \$274,000 to 355 students.

- The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and therefore eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Okaloosa Technical College has approximately 362 students eligible to receive Title IV aid.

- The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant.

As of May 28, 2020, Okaloosa Technical College has distributed to 362 students. All eligible students have been disbursed as of June 5, 2020.

- The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much each student would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Okaloosa Technical College first disbursed to all Pell eligible students as these were the students demonstrating the highest need. OTC then reviewed all remaining students to determine they meet or would meet the requirements to apply for Title IV Federal Financial Aid. To be Title IV Eligible a student must –

- *be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen*
- *have a valid Social Security number*
- *be registered with [Selective Service](#), if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25)*
- *be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program*
- *Have a high school diploma, or equivalent (such as a General Education Development certificate GED)*
- *maintain satisfactory academic progress (as of March 13, 2020)*

After additional guidance from US Dept of Education OTC disbursed CARES Act Funds to all students that meet the requirement of being a US Citizen or an eligible noncitizen. The language of the law specifically prohibits the following types of students from receiving the emergency grants:

- *International and undocumented students*
 - *Dual enrollment students*
 - *Students enrolled for Online only courses*
- Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The CARES Act Grant Application provides instructions, directions and guidance.

Federal guidelines indicate the funds can be used for any number of financial costs related to the disruption of education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This could include money spent for unanticipated travel, additional technology requirements, food, housing, course materials, health care, childcare, etc.

- Additional CARES Act Funds received for institutional expenses have been used as of August 30, 2020
 - \$27,034.86 for allowable instructional and testing proctor payroll during Jun, July and Aug to allow students to stay on track during and after COVID-19 closure period.
 - \$26,625.00 for student Summer lab fee due to missed lab time during Covid-19 closure period
 - \$10,000.00 initially applied for returning student's Fall Lab fees due to missed lab time during Covid-19 closure period. This which equals 50% of the cost of lab fees for students returning to the same program they were in at the onset of the Covid-19 adjustment to online learning for the second 9 weeks of the Spring 2020 term.

- Additional CARES Act Funds received for institutional expenses have been used as of Dec 17, 2020
 - \$25,925 applied to balance of Fall Lab Fees for returning student's due to missed lab time during Covid-19 closure period. This which equals 50% of the cost of lab fees for students returning to the same program they were in at the onset of the Covid-19 adjustment to online learning for the second 9 weeks of the Spring 2020 term.
 - \$50,321 in matching funds for the Rapid Credentials Grant used to scholarship students in the Technical Support Technology and Applied Cyber Security programs.