

UC Hastings Law
CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Required Reporting
Updated January 11, 2021

UC Hastings Law received \$108,309 from G5.gov on April 28, 2020 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020).

Pursuant to [the Department of Education Electronic Announcement dated May 6, 2020 \(Subject: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students\)](#), as [updated on August 31, 2020](#), we are reporting the following “in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public ... no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter.”

1. UC Hastings Law acknowledges having signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and we assure that the we have used, and intend to continue 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. The total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students: \$138,309
3. 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 submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter): \$81,300
4. 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 thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act: 813
6. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act: 813
7. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:

The Chancellor & Dean of UC Hastings Law convened an Emergency Grant task force comprised of UC Hastings staff members to determine the most expeditious and effective means by which to distribute the CARES Act funded emergency grants to our students. The task force decided to distribute a \$100 grant to each Eligible Student (defined below) from the money we received from the Department of Education through the CARES Act based on the following:

- (a) The amount we received from the Department of Education;
- (b) The number of enrolled students we had as of March 13, 2020;
- (c) The guidance we received from the Secretary of Education on April 9, 2020 in her [CARES Act Grant Funding Cover Letter](#) providing “that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include

distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need;”

- (d) The guidance we received from the Department of Education on April 21, 2020 in their [Frequently Asked Questions about the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) providing that “[o]nly 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” (“Eligible Students”); and
- (e) Our knowledge of the widespread financial impact across our student body due to COVID-19 disruptions to campus operations.

Our process directed students to self-identify if they had not incurred and would not incur \$100 in such costs so that their grants could be reduced or eliminated, as appropriate. (Using a separate funding source, we also made \$100 grants to non-Eligible Students.)

The remainder of the CARES Act funds that we received from the Department of Education specifically earmarked for student aid of \$57,009 will be distributed through our Student Emergency Fund process, and only to those Eligible Students who incurred or expect to incur “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).” H.R. 748 § 18004(c). Such student emergency grants are capped at \$1,000 per student per academic year.

Our judgment is that these allocations strike a balance between widespread needs of many students and the greater needs of a smaller group. This approach also allowed for an expeditious distribution of the majority of funds, supporting the goal articulated in the Secretary’s April 9 letter, “to get money in the hands of students in need as quickly as possible.”

- 7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

On April 28, 2020, the day that UC Hastings gained access to its funds via the website G5.gov, all students received the following instructions from our Fiscal Office:

* * *

Dear Students,

We hope you are well. As you may know, the CARES Act authorized funding to institutions of higher education "to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).” H.R. 748 § 18004(c). **We are writing to let you know that today, UC Hastings received \$138,309, which is specifically designated for our students from the Department of Education, and we have a plan to distribute that money to you as soon as practicable.**

Per the CARES Act grant funding cover letter instructions from Secretary DeVos dated April 9, 2020, institutions of higher education are afforded significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance, as long as funds are used to cover *expenses* related to the *disruption of campus operations* due to coronavirus, per the CARES Act statutory requirements.

We believe that all of our enrolled students this spring semester incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. As such, the College has decided to distribute the bulk of these funds as \$100 grants to every student who was enrolled as a JD, LLM, MSL, Foreign Exchange, or visiting JD student as of March 13, 2020. The College is not requiring students to produce proof of their expenses in order to receive the \$100 grant; however, the expectation is that students will use these grants towards past or future qualifying education expenses such as books, supplies, and equipment required for their studies at UC Hastings. The remainder of these funds will be distributed through our Student Emergency Fund process for eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Although the use of CARES Act funds is limited to students who are eligible for Title IV federal loans, we believe that all of our current students should receive a \$100 grant, regardless of Title IV eligibility. Students who are Title IV eligible will receive their grants from the CARES Act funding we received. All other students will receive their grants from non-federal funds raised to assist students during this pandemic.

There are 2 steps that you **must** follow to receive your grant:

STEP 1: Confirmation of TITLE IV Eligibility: You must complete this survey by no later than **3pm on May 1, 2020**. (The information collected on this survey will be used solely to determine proper grant funding sources. The survey does not ask for personally identifiable information, but does ask for your Student ID number.)

STEP 2: Confirmation of Bank Account Information: You **MUST** complete one of the following steps **by no later than 3pm on May 1, 2020**:

- Most students will receive their funds through e-check through their student account. As soon as possible, make sure that your banking information and current address in WebAdvisor are correct.
- If you are not able to receive an e-check and must receive a paper check, then you must email fiscal@uchastings.edu with "CARES Act Grant" in the subject line, and your request to receive a paper check and your current mailing address in the body of the email.
- If you are an international student who is attending UC Hastings on an F-1 or J-1 visa, you have returned to your home country, and would like your grant to be wired to your overseas bank account, then you must email fiscal@uchastings.edu with "CARES Act Grant" in the subject line, and your

request to receive information about the wire process in the body of the email.

If you **do not** believe that you have incurred or will incur at least \$100 of expenses in any of the categories below, please reply to this email **by 3pm on May 1, 2020** with the estimated expenses under \$100 that you have incurred or will incur as a result of our campus disruption this spring. The difference between your smaller grant amount and \$100 will be added to the funds available through our Student Emergency Fund. Eligible expenses include the following and similar expenses:

- Expenses relating to purchasing or renting books required for class or school-related extracurricular research, due to the closure of the Law Library.
- Increased cost of utilities, including electricity, heating, or water, now that students are no longer able to spend time on campus due to our campus closure.
- Expenses relating to the purchase or upgrade of technology in order to take remote classes, take remote final exams, complete final papers, or complete campus-related extracurricular assignments in a remote environment, including the purchase of a computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, bigger internet or data plan, stronger router, webcam, computer cables, headphones, printer, printer ink or toner, or scanner, due to our move to a fully remote environment and our students' inability to utilize the school's technology and the school's business center.
- Expenses relating to furniture needs, including the purchase of a desk or a chair, due to the need to take all classes in a remote environment.
- Expenses relating to the inability to work on-campus due to the closure of campus.
- Expenses related to increased food costs due to the closure of the Law Café or inability to access the Student Services Food Pantry.
- Expenses relating to moving in order to have a quiet space adequate for taking all classes in a remote environment, due to the move from in-residence classes to remote classes.
- Expenses relating to renting a quiet space to take final exams away from distractions like family members sheltering-in-place with the student, due to the change to take-home finals and the closure of campus.

We know that \$100 likely does not cover the full extent of the expenses you have incurred this spring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because funding provided through the CARES Act can only be used for expenses that are directly related to the disruption of campus operations, we hope that students will continue to apply for additional assistance through our Student Emergency Fund program to help with other expenses related to COVID-19, including unanticipated travel costs, loss of income from non-campus employment, and unanticipated medical costs.

[end of report]