

**UC Hastings Law
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Required Reporting
Updated April 1, 2021**

UC Hastings Law received \$138,309 from G5.gov on April 28, 2020 for student grants as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), P.L. 116-136(March 27, 2020). On January 21, 2021, UC Hastings Law received \$138,309 from G5.gov for student grants as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 ("CRRSAA"), P.L. 116-260 (December 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 use of CARES ACT funds received "in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public ... no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter." Given that as of the posting of this update the Department of Education has not yet provided reporting guidance for CRRSAA funds, this document includes only an update on the CARES Act funds received.

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: \$138,309
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 in the 2019-20 academic year and 955 in the 2020-21 academic year
5. 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 in the 2019-20 academic year and 570 in the 2020-21 academic year
6. 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:

In March 2020, 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. In the 2019-20 academic year, 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.) Our judgment is that these allocations struck a balance between the 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.”

The remaining balance of \$57,009 of the CARES Act funds not spent during the 2019-20 academic year was distributed on March 30, 2021 through the process by which the Emergency Grant task force decided to distribute the CRRSAA funds received on January 21, 2021 based on the [Higher Education Emergency Fund \(HEERF\) II Public and Private Nonprofit Institution \(a\)\(1\) Programs \(CFDSa 84.425E and 84.425F\) Frequently Asked Questions](#) published January 14, 2021, and in particular based on the answer provided to Question 12:

12. **Question:** How has the use of funds changed for unexpended CARES Act grant funds? **Answer:** The expanded use of funds authority under the CRRSAA also applies to unexpended CARES Act funds: ...
- For their Student Aid Portion CARES Act grant (CFDA 84.425E), institutions may use their remaining funds to provide financial aid grants in the same way they are allowed to use their supplemental Student Aid Portion funds under the CRRSAA, including by providing such grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education (as described in Question 8).

Institutions have this expanded flexibility to use unliquidated (unspent) funds effective December 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CRRSAA).

Please note that under section 314(d)(5), an institution that utilizes the expanded use of funds authority under the CRRSAA for its unspent CARES Act funds must ensure at least 50% of the funds it received under CARES Act section 18004(a)(1) (generally, its Student Aid Portion award) is used for financial aid grants to students.

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

On April 28, 2020, 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.

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On March 17, 2021, all students received the following instructions from our Fiscal Office:

Dear Students,

We are very happy to be able to let you know that UC Hastings has received \$138,309 of funding from the Department of Education through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of December 27, 2020 to assist our students with pandemic-related costs you may have incurred this academic year.

As we did in the spring of 2020 with the CARES Act funding we received in the same amount, the College has decided to distribute the bulk of these funds as \$100 grants to every JD, LLM, or MSL student enrolled as of March 15, 2021 who wishes to receive the aid. **Unlike the CARES Act funds we received in the spring of 2020, however, the CRRSAA requires that we prioritize students with *exceptional need*.** As such, for this spring distribution of these CRRSAA funds, we are offering students three options:

1. Students may opt out of receiving CRRSAA this spring semester to allow us to re-distribute your portion to other students who have experienced exceptional need due to the pandemic this academic year.
2. Students may opt to receive \$100 of CRRSAA aid this spring.
3. In addition to receiving \$100 of CRRSAA aid this spring, students who believe they have (a) incurred emergency costs due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, health care (including

mental health care), or child care and/or (b) experienced significant difficulty meeting educational costs due to the coronavirus pandemic, such as tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation may provide details of their exceptional need for consideration to receive funds above \$100. (Please note that given the limited funding we have to support our entire student body, it is unlikely that the College will be able to meet all of our students' full need in this category.)

You must complete this survey by no later than **12pm on Wednesday, March 24, 2021**. (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.)

[end of report]