Baptist Health signed and returned the Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement form for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to eligible BHCLR students who were enrolled during the Spring 2020/ Fall 2021 semester.

As of September 25th, BHCLR has disbursed $512,050 of the Emergency Grant Fund to 507 students with $388,450 of those funds going to help students during the pandemic and $123,600 went to students to help with new technology requirements due to moving online. BHCLR initially estimated that about 600 students would be eligible to participate in the programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and therefore eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant.

The total amount BHCLR received under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) student portion was $438,175. These funds were for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

**How to Apply for CARES Grant Funding:**

**The Spring application for CARES Emergency Funding has closed. The deadline was Wednesday, June 26, 2020.**

**The Fall application for CARES Emergency Funding has closed. The deadline was August 28, 2020.**

**The application for CARES Emergency Funding for Technology has closed. The deadline was August 28th.**

**Disbursement of Emergency Financial Aid Grants**

The amount of each emergency funding award was based on the number of credit hours a qualified student was enrolled in on March 1, 2020, and the student’s Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by their completed 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 FAFSA. BHCLR distributed emergency grants to eligible students who were enrolled for the spring 2020 and fall 2021 semester, had a 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 FAFSA on file, and completed the BHCLR Emergency Grant Certification Form by each semester posted deadlines. Funds were disbursed to students via direct deposit and mail. Students were able to sign up for direct deposit by logging in to the BHCLR Campus Portal at <https://mybhclr.baptist-health.org/ics> , selecting the “Student” tab, selecting "Nelnet Enterprise" and clicking "Student Choice Refunds." If students had questions about direct deposit or the funds being mailed, they could have contacted Student Accounts at [businessoffice@bhclr.edu](mailto:businessoffice@bhclr.edu)  or (501) 202-6055.

The amount of each emergency funding award for technology is a set amount of $300 per student. Students must have completed a 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 FAFSA to receive the funding.

The same process is being followed for awarding the emergency grant for technology. The student must complete the CARES Technology Grant application. The Financial Aid Office reviews the application and awards the student. Funds are also disbursed to students via direct deposit and mail.

Students who had a completed FAFSA on file and those students who had been determined to be eligible for Federal Student Aid are to be awarded the grant. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include, but are not limited to, the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

The CARES Act expressly required that institutions provide the emergency financial aid grants directly 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 childcare)”. Funds were not to be used for other purposes.

The initial amount of each grant awarded for spring and fall semester were based on the following chart:

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|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | EFC Range | | Full Time Amounts to be awarded to students | | 0 | 3000 | $900.00 | | 3001 | 6000 | $850.00 | | 6001 | 8000 | $750.00 | | 8001 | 10000 | $625.00 | | 10001 | 20000 | $550.00 | | 20000 | 30999 | $350.00 | | 31000 | 60000 | $300.00 | | 61000 | 99000 | $200.00 | | No EFC | NO\_FAFSA | $150.00 | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
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\*Once the deadline of May 28, 2020 to submit the certification passed, the remaining “advanced funds” will be awarded to the fall incoming students and will be used for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses. We plan to opened the application in July 2020 for our fall semester students still experiencing hardships to apply.