

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 March 31, 2021, BHCLR has disbursed \$814,475 of the Emergency Grant Fund to 1,022 students with \$690,575 of those funds going to help students during the pandemic and \$216,000 went to students to help with new technology requirements due to moving online. BHCLR initially estimated that about 600 students per semester 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 \$876,625. These funds were for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

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

<u>Term</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Closed</u>
<b>Spring/Fall 2020 - Emergency</b>	<b>05/28/2020</b>	<b>06/26/2020</b>
<b>Fall 2020 – Technology</b>	<b>06/01/2020</b>	<b>08/28/2020</b>
<b>Spring 2021 – Emergency</b>	<b>02/23/2021</b>	<b>03/01/2021</b>
<b>Spring 2021 – Technology</b>	<b>03/01/2021</b>	<b>04/02/2021</b>

#### **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, 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, fall 2021, and spring 2021 semester's, 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:

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