Reporting Requirements CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund – Student Aid

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet.

The University of North Texas (UNT) received an allocation from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to make emergency grants available to students. UNT follows all guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Education in awarding and disbursing grants to students. As part of the established guidelines, UNT provides the following information and data that is updated every 45 days.

Updated 5/21/20

- UNT signed and submitted a Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education and intends 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. UNT received \$14,509,044 from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
- 3. UNT has distributed a total of \$6,732,571.50 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of 5/21/20.
 - UNT has awarded a total of \$7,533,752.50 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of 5/21/20. Some awards are in the processing stage before disbursement.
- 4. UNT has an estimated total of 30,088 students 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.
- 5. A total of **6,768** students have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
 - A total of **8,036** awards have been made as Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. This represents **7,904** individual students. Some awards are in the processing stage before the disbursement to students.

6. UNT followed the guidelines provided by the Department of Education in administering the awarding and disbursement of funds to students. The institution established a team of staff from Student Affairs, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships and Student Financial Services to manage the communications, requests, awarding and processing of emergency financial aid grants.

An application was established to capture basic information, including why the student was requesting funds and how the funds would be used to ensure their success at UNT. Each application was reviewed to ensure eligibility according to the Department of Education guidelines, to confirm the student expressed need and to evaluate the amount requested. UNT has ensured the application, awarding and processing allowed as many students as possible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Students ineligible for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CARES Act were evaluated for potential funding using institutional funds.

7. All enrolled students were notified of the availability of grants by an <u>official email from the University President on April 15, 2020</u>. Additional information was communicated through social media, website posts and additional emails distributed by various university departments. The following website was established to provide information about the awards and the application process: https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/covid-19-student-success-award