

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting: Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

On April 14, 2020, Sherman College of Chiropractic (the College) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement required under Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), to receive its allocation of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act 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).

On April 9, 2020, the Department published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a [letter](#) from Secretary Betsy DeVos, a form [Certification and Agreement](#) for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of [institutional allocations under 18004\(a\)\(1\)](#). Sherman College of Chiropractic’s total allocation under HEERF is \$136,466. The College elected to make its full allocation of \$136,466 available to students as Emergency Financial Aid Grants rather than limiting these grants to the required 50 percent of the allocation (\$68,233).

As of May 14, 2020, the College has processed the initial round of grant applications and has awarded and distributed \$25,094.15 to twenty-eight students for an average award of \$896.22. The College has 377 students who are 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. To apply for a grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students should complete the CARES Act Emergency Grant Request Form emailed to them from Chris Roberson, Director of Financial Aid.

Applications are being processed in a two-week cycle to distribute grants as expeditiously as possible. Applications and accompanying documentation are reviewed by the College’s Emergency Loan Committee for award decisions. The Committee will not award more than \$2,000 to any one student for technology needs and will not award more than \$465 to any one student for food unless there is documentation of extenuating circumstances that demonstrate an extraordinary need. Applications will continue to be considered until funding is exhausted or the 12-month award period has expired (4/13/2021).

Please email financialaid@sherman.edu to: 1) request another copy of the form; 2) submit completed forms and accompanying documentation; or 3) submit any questions about the HEERF program or the College’s application process.

Sherman College is grateful to have this opportunity to support students during this global pandemic. We encourage students to apply and to follow guidelines provided to ensure a seamless process.