

# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Report

## Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Pub. L. No. 116-136, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HEERF provided funds to colleges based on enrollment and the number of Pell recipients on each campus. Half of these funds were to be used in direct cash grants to students and half was available for institutional use related to pandemic-response costs.

Mount St. Joseph University is making the below information available in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's ("Department") Electronic Announcement of May 6, 2020. For questions concerning this Fund Report, please contact the Student Administrative Services Office at [financial.aid@msj.edu](mailto:financial.aid@msj.edu).

1. The Mount signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The Mount has used no less than 50% 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 Mount received from the Department pursuant to the Mount's Certification and Agreement (for) Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students was \$641,487.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act was \$641,500.
4. The estimated total number of students at the Mount 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 was 1278.
5. 1172 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to Students.
6. Following the guidance of Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, a matrix-system was developed to distribute funds to as many students as possible, especially those with significant need. Expected Family Contributions (EFC) were used to establish the level of demonstrated need and enrollment status as the basis for the level of impact the disruption to campus posed to students. All students (undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate) registered for nine or more hours, who filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and all Pell Eligible students received funding. Students who were in an online program prior to all MSJ courses being remote, were not eligible for this funding.

Enrollment Status	EFC Band	Award Amount
Full-time – Pell Eligible (Undergraduate)	0 – 5,576	\$750
Part-time (6-8 hours) – Pell Eligible	0 – 5,576	\$500
Part-time (less than half-time) – Pell Eligible	0 – 5,576	\$250
Full-time – Graduate/Doctorate	0	\$750
Full-time Non-Pell Undergrad & Graduate	1 – 24,999	\$500
Full-time Non-Pell Undergrad & Graduate	25,000 – 49,999	\$250
Full-time Non-Pell Undergrad & Graduate	\$50,000 and higher	\$150
Part-time Undergraduate (9-11 hours)	5,577 - \$50,000	\$150

7. Eligible students received a letter per the following example:

Dear Student:

I am happy to notify you on behalf of Mount St. Joseph University that you are eligible to receive \$XXX.XX through the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) fund established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Your eligibility was established by a review of your 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and your enrollment status.

HEERF funds are intended for you to use to meet expenses that you have because of the disruption of the Mount campus due to the coronavirus outbreak. Expenses may include, but are not limited to items such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. You are not required to keep track of each expenditure, as you will not be asked to report how these funds were used. There is uncertainty at this time about whether these funds will be taxable. Please read carefully IRS and state tax guidelines as you file your 2020 tax return next year.

In addition, if you have experienced a loss of household income from business closures or furloughs, we recommend that you review the 2020-21 Special Circumstance Form. From the MSJ.edu home page, it can be found under Tuition & Aid by following the link to Forms & Applications.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn M. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Kathryn M. Kelly  
Director of Student Administrative Services