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**University of Maine at Farmington**

**CARES Act Funding Under Section 18004(a)(1) – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 50% for Student Aid**

**30-Day Report**

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education

Award Number: P425E202234

Award Amount: \$1,079,026

Report Period: 04/27/2020 thru 05/25/2020

Report Date: 05/22/2020

**Source and Purpose of Funds**

The University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) received the above award from the CARES Act passed by Congress on March 27, 2020 to provide emergency financial aid grants to eligible students for their expenses related to the disruption of our campus operations due to coronavirus.

On April 15, 2020, UMF submitted the required [Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education \(U.S. DOE\)](#) committing to use these funds to provide emergency aid directly to our eligible students.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Consistent with the guidance from the U.S. DOE, eligible students include all students who were enrolled at UMF on March 13, 2020, and are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), with the following exceptions:

- Non-degree seeking students
- International or DACA students
- Employees receiving UMS Employee Tuition benefits
- Early College students
- Students enrolled in exclusively online programs as of March 13, 2020.

Students who did not have a FAFSA on file with the university were able to complete a self-certification form, attesting under the penalty of perjury to meeting the requirements of Section 484 of the HEA.

**Distribution Plan**

Consistent with the other institutions within the University of Maine System, of which UMF is a part, and in acknowledgment that every one of our students experienced disruption when COVID-19 forced all courses to be transitioned to online delivery, UMF automatically distributed 85% percent of these funds to all eligible students. Award amounts were tiered as follows based on the number of credit hours in which the student was enrolled as of March 13, 2020:

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	
12 + credits	\$630
6-11.99 credits	\$420
0.1-5.99 credits	\$210
<b>Graduate Students</b>	
9 + credits	\$630
4-8.99 credits	\$420
0.1-3.99 credits	\$210

The remaining 15% percent of the CARES student aid is being made available by application to eligible students who self-identify with additional need as a result of the disruption to campus operations caused by COVID-19.

In some cases, emergency funds may have been supplemented with a portion of CARES dollars intended for institutional relief.

All distributions to students will be made via direct deposit or check. Because the IRS considers the CARES student funds as a “qualified disaster relief payment,” they are not considered taxable income.

**Disbursements To-Date**

Distribution Type	Number of Eligible Students	Number of Students To Which Aid Has Been Distributed	Total Amount of Aid That Has Been Distributed	Amount of Funds Remaining for Disbursement
Automatic	1,336	1,336	\$819,210	0
Self Certify	196 <i>(as of 5.20.2020)</i>	64	\$29,190	\$61,810
Application (for the 15%)	1,400 <i>(as of 5.20.2020)</i>	0	0	\$168,816
Total	1,532	1,400	\$848,400	\$230,626

**Communications to Students**

Below are all communications from the University of Maine System or UMF to students related to the students concerning the emergency financial aid grants provided through the CARES Act.

<https://www.maine.edu/health-advisory/community-guidance/students/>

**Communication sent via email on May 6, 2020 to students with FAFSAs on file:**

Dear UMF Students,

The University of Maine at Farmington has been allocated \$1,079,026 in Federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act (also known as the CARES Act) enacted by Congress. The CARES Act requires that these dollars go directly to students to cover emergency expenses arising from the disruption in campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Starting this week with those who have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), UMF will begin disbursing **CARES Act Emergency Grant** payments from 85% of this funding to qualifying degree-seeking, undergraduate and graduate students. **You are in this group of students and you do not need to take any action to receive a CARES Act Emergency Grant**, which will be applied as a direct payment on your student account in MaineStreet according to the table below.

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	
12 + credits	\$630
6-11.99 credits	\$420
0.1-5.99 credits	\$210
<b>Graduate Students</b>	
9 + credits	\$630
4-8.99 credits	\$420
0.1-3.99 credits	\$210

If you have already enrolled in direct deposit, your payment will automatically be deposited into your bank account. If you have not enrolled in direct deposit and would like to do so, please go to this [link](#). If you are not able to enroll in direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed to the billing address listed on your MaineStreet account.

Please note that the other 15% of the allocation has been set aside to assist qualifying students who self-identify with special circumstances and/or additional need as a result of being impacted by the coronavirus. An email about these funds will be sent later this week.

For more, note the advisory from Chancellor Malloy in previously published information in myCampus under the [Public Health Advisory: "Emergency Payments are on the way \(05/01/2020\)."](#)

If you have any questions regarding your CARES Act payment, please contact [umf.caresact@maine.edu](mailto:umf.caresact@maine.edu)

Sincerely,

Edward Serna  
President  
University of Maine, Farmington

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***Communication sent via email on May 6, 2020 to students who needed to self-certify:***

Dear UMF Students,

The University of Maine at Farmington has been allocated \$1,079,026 in Federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act (also known as the CARES Act) enacted by Congress. The CARES Act requires that these dollars go directly to students to cover emergency expenses arising from the disruption in campus operations due to the coronavirus. UMF will distribute 85% of the allocation directly to eligible degree-seeking, undergraduate and graduate students, based on the number of credit hours in Spring 2020, in the form of **CARES Act Emergency Grant** payments.

**In order to receive a payment of these emergency funds, you are required to complete a CARES Act Self-Certification. Please navigate to your To Do List on MaineStreet Student Center and complete the CARES Act Self-Certification by June 15, 2020 to verify your eligibility.** If your eligibility is verified, you will receive a direct payment through your MaineStreet Student Account.

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	
12 + credits	\$630
6-11.99 credits	\$420
0.1-5.99 credits	\$210
<b>Graduate Students</b>	
9 + credits	\$630
4-8.99 credits	\$420
0.1-3.99 credits	\$210

NOTE: The other 15% of UMF's allocation has been set aside to assist students who self-identify with special circumstances and/or additional need as a result of being impacted by the coronavirus. An email about these funds will be sent later this week.

If you have already enrolled in direct deposit, your payment will automatically be deposited into your bank account. If you have not enrolled in direct deposit and would like to do so, please go to this [link](#). If you are not able to enroll in direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed to the billing address listed on your MaineStreet account.

If you have any questions regarding your CARES Act payment, please contact [umf.caresact@maine.edu](mailto:umf.caresact@maine.edu)

Sincerely,

Edward Serna  
 President  
 University of Maine, Farmington

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***Communication Sent via email May 10, 2020 to eligible students; sent subsequently to students who self-certified:***

Dear UMF Students,

The University of Maine at Farmington has been allocated \$1,079,026 million in funding through the federal CARES Act. The Act requires that these dollars go directly to students to cover emergency expenses arising from the disruption in campus operations due to the coronavirus.

85% of the funds are being distributed to eligible students, and all eligible students will receive these funds. UMF began distributing CARES Act funds to eligible students the week of May 4.

15% of the funds have been reserved for eligible students with extenuating circumstances and emergency situations, to be distributed on a case-by-case basis. These allocations will be in addition to the funds that students will have already received.

If you are experiencing an extenuating circumstance or an emergency situation due to the coronavirus that is impacting your degree work, please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/bE44dzmQvxzHuBDFa>

Funds will be allocated on a rolling basis. Please fill out this form as early as possible. Forms will not be accepted after June 30, 2020.

Sincerely,

Edward Serna  
President  
University of Maine, Farmington

