

CARES ACT UPDATE (Student Emergency Financial Aid)

On April 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued guidance related to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), a provision of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act). This guidance addressed the student share of HEERF grants. It included the CARES Funding Certification and Agreement (Agreement), in which higher education institutions must complete receiving funding provided by the HEERF. Edward Waters College received \$680,605.

An acknowledgment that the institution signed and returned the Agreement to ED and the assurance the institution has used or 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.

- Under Section 18004(a) (1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial and grants to students, Edward Waters College, Inc. acknowledges that the institution signed on April 10, 2020, returned on April 10, 2020, the Agreement to the Department of Education, which represents 50% of an allocation of \$1,361,000 designated towards students' emergency financial aid.

The total amount of funds the institution will receive or has received from ED according to the institution's Agreement for emergency financial aid grants to students.

- According to the institution's Agreement for Emergency Aid grants, on April 20, 2020, the institution received an amount totaling \$680,650 from the Department of ED to be used towards student emergency aid.

The total number of emergency financial aid grants was distributed to students under §18004(a) (1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission.

- As of May 1, 2020, the College received a total of 528 applications from students for emergency aid. Of the number students eligible for the grant funds, 282 students were disbursed totaling \$653,575. The remaining balance of \$27,030 will be disbursed to students during the spring 2020 semester.

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under §18004(a) (1) of the CARES Act.

- As March 13, 2020, students were eligible if they were a enrolled at the College, grade point average of at least 2.0, must be a U.S. Citizen, must have filed a 2020-2021 FAFSA, and the maximum amount up to \$6,000 based on the 2019-2020 academic term for Pell.

- On April 17, 2020 the college released the Student Emergency Aid Application by alerting students via email and posting the application to the College's website. Additionally, the College President & CEO, made a campus wide announcement to students, faculty, and staff via livestream regarding the launch of the **EWC Student Resource Assistance Portal (S-RAP)** that was opened on April, 20, 2020. The campus wide livestream held on April 17, 2020 was also sent out via email to ALL Students on April 20, 2020 as an additional follow-up. The use of social media platforms were also used to communicate with the campus community regarding the launch. See follow-up email below:



On Friday, April 17, 2020, Edward Waters College President & CEO, Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr., announced the forthcoming launch of the EWC Student Resource Assistance Portal (S-RAP) beginning Monday, April 20, 2020.

The portal will support the distribution of laptop computers to all current EWC students, Campus Room & Board Credits/Refunds, dissemination of over \$675,000 in Emergency Student Assistance Grants, EWC's Flexible Grading Option program, and information concerning Online Instructional Upgrades. The video also provides up to date information concerning 2020 Spring Commencement Plans as well as construction updates regarding renovations of the Tiger Landing student residence facility and the new EWC Community Field and Stadium.

Click the link below to watch President Faison's video update to the EWC community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVdJsnFdn0M&feature=youtu.be>

Remember, students **MUST** complete the following beginning Monday morning to receive their new laptop computers, room and board credits, and grant assistance of up to \$6,000.00 per student depending upon their aid eligibility.

Submit a 2020-2021 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.

Get financially cleared. A EWC student accounts or financial aid representative will contact you directly to guide you through the clearance process.


Register for Summer 2020 and/or Fall 2020 classes by contacting your academic advisor or academic department chairperson.

Allocation and Distribution:

After the College received the student allocation on April 20, 2020, the College immediately communicated with all students, staff, and faculty via email on April 21, 2020, at 4:21 pm as follows:

"Dear EWC Students,

Do you have a personal emergency expense? EWC is offering \$680,000 in emergency grant funding and is pleased to assist you with a one-time emergency grant award for educational, housing, food, and other personal emergency expenses. Please visit www.ewc.edu/srap/ to complete your application today!" See flyer below that accompany the email and <https://www.ewc.edu/esg-app/>



The flyer is purple and white with a red banner in the top left corner that says "NEW". At the top center is the EWC logo. Below the logo, the word "EMERGENCY" is written in large, bold, orange letters, and "Student Grants" is written in a white cursive font below it. The main text reads: "Edward Waters College is offering \$680,000 in emergency grant funding and is pleased to assist you with a one-time emergency grant award for educational, housing, food and other personal emergency expenses." Below this is a section titled "Eligibility Requirements:" with three bullet points: "- You must be enrolled full-time at Edward Waters College", "- You must have a 2.00 GPA or better", and "- You must be a US citizen or legal resident". A fourth bullet point is partially visible: "- You must have completed your 2020-2021 FAFSA". Below the requirements, it says "Limited funding available on a first come, first served basis" and "Maximum award amount per student is up to \$6,000.00". At the bottom, it says "If you have an outstanding balance, check your EWC email for application information. Students with no outstanding EWC balance can apply directly at: www.ewc.edu/srap For further questions please email finaid@ewc.edu".

Review Process:

1. Applications are reviewed on a first come, first serve basis.
2. All applications are reviewed by the Financial Aid office.
3. The applicant's information is tracked using a JOT form that provides time and receipt sent back to the applicant once submitted.
4. The student could indicate their needs in the application. The college disbursed funding to students that indicated an amount and all others were evenly distributed to students that had applied by May 1, 2020. The full amount could not exceed \$6,000 of the maximum Pell award for the 2019-2020 academic term.

Disbursement to Students:

1. The Students Accounts office will disburse the Emergency Aid funds to the students.
2. Disbursement to students will be via checks or ACH directly to students.

This report will be updated every 45 days