

## Supplemental Report on the CARES Act Grant Funding Received by Prescott College for student grants through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Report Date: 04/06/2021

1. Prescott College acknowledges that on **April 21, 2020** it signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that 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.
2. Prescott College has received or will receive a total of **\$301,298** from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students via the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

This includes an initial allocation of \$150,659 authorized through The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (**CARES**) Act signed on March 27, 2020 and another \$150,659 authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 on December 27, 2020.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students **as of 3/31/2021** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is **\$295,863**. (Prior reports: as of 5/22/2020 - \$67,438, as of 7/6/2020 - \$75,913; as of 10/10/2020 -- \$100,130; as of 1/10/2021 \$107,975).
4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 [i.e. FAFSA-eligible students] and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act: **1202**
  - # of FAFSA-eligible student students enrolled in spring 2020 term in campus-based programs which converted to on-line instruction: **254**
5. The total number of students as of 3/31/2021 who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act or CRRSAA Act: **624** (Prior reports: as of 5/22/2020 - 165; as of 7/6/20 - 173; as of 10/1/20 - 181; as of 1/10/2021 - 187.)
6. The following methods have been or are being used by the institution to determine which students will receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they each will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act & CRRSAA Act.
  - i. The Student Union Board (SUB) offered Emergency Relief Grants for on-campus students needing financial assistance shortly after on-campus courses converted to

on-line. The SUB grant applications were reviewed to determine those whom applied due to expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus. Grants given to those who had such eligible expenses were initially funded by SUB, but SUB was later reimbursed via money from the CARES grant.

- ii. It was determined that all on-campus undergraduate students who were enrolled on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (the day the national emergency was declared) likely incurred some eligible expenses including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care due to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus, and that it was reasonable to assume these expenses likely ranged from at least \$200 to \$750 per person. These disruptions included the conversion of on-campus classes to on-line, the closing for campus and all associated services except for essential operations, and the request for on-campus students to move off-campus or back home if possible. It was determined that students with the highest financial need likely had the fewest outside resources available to help with these expenses, and thus a sliding scale was used to determine initial grant amounts based on the following criteria:
  - Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the FAFSA
  - Unmet Financial Need – i.e. Cost of Attendance minus the student’s EFC, not previously covered by other financial aid.

Initial grant amounts ranging from \$200 to \$750 were determined using these sliding scales, and disbursed to students already enrolled in either summer 2020 or fall 2020 coursework. As students enrolled for either summer 2020, fall 2020, or spring 2021 courses, additional grants were disbursed.

- iii. All students who received an initial grant as well as any other student enrolled in ground-based courses on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were invited to apply for additional CARES Act emergency relief grant funding via our [CARES/CRRSAA Emergency Relief Grant Application](#), which requests students to describe the expenses they incurred due to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus. Students are encouraged to upload supporting documentation with their request, though supporting documentation is not required. Grant applications are reviewed regularly and additional grants will be disbursed to students on a rolling basis until all available grant funds are exhausted. **Beginning in January 2021, after the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) passed on 12/27/2020, which provided additional funding for Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) grants and expanded the eligibility criteria of those who could receive HEERF funds, all students who are eligible for federal aid were invited to appeal for HEERF funding if they had Coronavirus related expenses.**
- iv. Through review of the CARES/CRRSAA Emergency Relief Grant Applications previously mentioned, groups of students who are in similar circumstances to those

who have applied for additional assistance were identified. Some grants have been issued to these additional students based on the average expenses testified by others in these similar circumstances.

- v. Additional grants of \$215 each were awarded to On-Campus undergraduate students who enrolled in Spring term. The intent of this additional grant was to assist with technology and internet costs needed to sustain on-line learning necessary due to Coronavirus. This is due to most courses still being delivered at least partially on-line.
  - vi. When funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) became available in early spring (an additional \$150,649 on top of the original \$150,649 from the CARES Act), which opened up the possibility of funds for on-line students who were not previously eligible CARES HEERF funding, the college decided to allot a large portion of the HEERF II funds to this population of students, including undergraduate and graduate students. \$125,525 was reserved for this purpose and these funds were divided into grants ranging from \$275 to \$700 for assistance with expenses related to Coronavirus that fit within the student's cost of attendance. Grant amounts varied based on the student's EFC from their most recently filed FAFSA as well as their enrollment level.
7. Students are issued a letter with instructions / directions / guidance by Prescott College concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, along with a revised financial aid award letter for the current award year. This guidance is delivered to each student who receives their grant via the financial aid office by e-mail to the student's student.prescott.edu e-mail address and/or the e-mail address on the student's FAFSA. Parents of dependent students were also sent a copy of the same e-mail to the parent e-mail address on the student's FAFSA. Below is a sample of the most recent round of letters which students receive.



Date

Dear

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Prescott College is pleased to provide a one-time grant to you in the amount of **####**. This grant will be disbursed to you in the near future, via your preferred refund method for your

student account, as set up at [prescott.afford.com](http://prescott.afford.com). Please see the paragraph regarding “disbursement details” at the bottom of this letter for more information.

In all cases, in accordance with federal requirements, the grant is being awarded to you to help offset expenses you incurred related to the Coronavirus. Examples of these disruptions may include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Your particular grant may have been awarded as a result of one of the following initiatives:

- **Initial grants:** Grants were awarded to on-campus undergraduate students who were registered in Spring 2020 courses last March, who subsequently registered for either the Summer or Fall 2020 terms. These grant amounts varied between \$200 and \$750 depending on each student’s estimated family contribution (EFC) and previous unmet financial need according to the FAFSA, and were specifically to assist with expenses related to the disruption of campus services.
- **Subsequent grants for online students:** Emergency Relief grant funding became available for Coronavirus relief for online students through the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) in December 2020. (CRRSAA also provided additional funding available to on-campus students.) Prescott College thus decided to distribute a portion of the new CRRSAA money as emergency relief grants to on-line students who were unable to benefit from the initial grants awarded last year. Grant amounts varied dependent on each student’s financial need taking into consideration their estimated family contribution (EFC) according to the FAFSA as well as their current enrollment level.
- **Grants awarded through appeal:** Some additional grants are being awarded to students who petition for an additional allotment based on individual expenses that they have experienced which may have gone above and beyond their initial or subsequent grant. If you have not yet submitted a petition for this reason, and you feel that you do have expenses above the \$XXX grant mentioned above, you too may [appeal for an additional grant](#). Learn more about the CARES/CRRSAA Emergency Relief Grants by visiting the [Prescott College CoVID-19 Updates](#) webpage which also contains our most recent CARES Act Report re: Student Emergency Relief Grants.
- **Additional grants:** The school may have identified you in a group that qualified for an emergency relief grant based on a particular CoVID-related expense. If you believe your grant was awarded for this reason and you would like additional information on the particulars of your grant award, please [schedule an appointment with the Financial Aid Director](#) for additional information.

The total amount of all combined one-time student grants to be awarded to Prescott College students for these purposes is limited to the \$301,298 received by the college. The majority of this amount has been spent on the initiatives described above; however, some money has been intentionally held back for appeals and special circumstances. Appeals will be granted on a

first-come first-serve basis until the grant is depleted prior to the end of this school year. Please [complete this on-line form](#) if you feel you have had or will have additional expenses related to the Coronavirus and you need assistance. Receipts are not required but are often helpful, along with a specific description of your expenses and how these were connected to the Coronavirus.

Please know that we are thinking of you and hope that you are safe and well.

Sincerely,

*Bee*

Bee Sena  
Financial Aid Director

**Disbursement Details:** Grants will be issued through Nelnet, our 3rd party refund company, for student accounts. If you have not previously set up direct deposit for your student account, but would like to do so, please login to [prescott.afford.com](http://prescott.afford.com) today to choose your refund method. The default method is check by mail, and so if you do not want direct deposit, your check will be mailed to the address on file with Nelnet. Please verify your mailing address at [prescott.afford.com](http://prescott.afford.com) to ensure accuracy. If you have any trouble logging into [prescott.afford.com](http://prescott.afford.com), please contact the Nelnet school refund helpline at 800-208-5807. Other student account questions may be directed to the student accounts office at [studentaccounts@prescott.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@prescott.edu) or call (928) 350-4000.