

The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires the Recipient (Faith Baptist Bible College) to use no less than fifty percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

Faith Baptist Bible College applied for the grant on May 4, 2020. As part of the grant application process, Faith signed and returned the certification and agreement form to the U.S. Department of Education designating its intent to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the funds received for emergency financial aid grants to students. The grant was approved and funds were received by the college on May 13, 2020.

The fifty percent portion of the funds received by Faith is \$148,517. It is to be used for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.

Based on published guidance from the U.S. Department of Education at the time the grant funds were received, only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student filed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and met all eligibility criteria, then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA.

In addition to the above eligibility criteria, in order to be considered for the funds, a student had to be degree seeking, must have been registered during Spring Semester 2020 as of May 4, 2020 and must have been making Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students enrolled exclusively online or who paid no tuition were excluded from consideration. The total number of students meeting the eligibility guidelines as described was determined to be 207.

In evaluating the intent of the CARES Act, that funds should go to students based on the disruption of campus operations, the Faith administration decided that students that were away from their home were impacted. Such students typically had to secure alternate housing arrangements and likely had to travel away from Ankeny to secure such.

In addition, the Faith administration decided that campus student employees were also impacted by the disruption of campus operations as a result of their paying jobs coming to an abrupt end.

Furthermore, the Faith administration made a good faith effort to also direct a portion of the aid to the neediest students by identifying likely needs as measured by Spring Semester Pell awards and the collective current knowledge of Faith college staff most familiar with individual student situations.

From those three estimation categories described in the three paragraphs immediately above, and also establishing a minimum grant amount of \$250, the emergency financial aid grant amounts to these 207 students ranged from \$250 to nearly \$2,000. Most (one standard deviation) of the grants ranged from \$350 to \$1,100. The funds were mailed to students on May 28.

With each check sent, a letter was enclosed describing the CARES Act and the student's eligibility for the funds. The text of the letter is copied below:

Dear Students,

We trust you have now completed all your online classes and work from the spring semester, and are now able to enjoy some “down time” before the fall semester arrives! We have been praying for you during this unsettling time, knowing that our omnipotent God had this in His plans all along! Thank you for your gracious spirits, as we walk this path together.

As we all know, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. Then, on March 25, the Senate passed a bill called the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of which a portion of the bill was to provide relief aid to students and institutions who have had their education disrupted. The Department of Education, however, has been slow in releasing these funds due to the complicated guidance it has given to the institutions in disbursing the funds. We understand that many of you have incurred extra expenses related to this disruption. The CARES Act funds, namely the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is here to help!

In compliance with the Department of Education's guidelines, the CARES Act funds (HEERF) must be used to cover 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, moving expenses, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

In order to be eligible for these funds:

*The student must have completed the FAFSA for the 2019-2020 school year.

*The student must be maintaining financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress, meaning the cumulative GPA must be at 2.0 or higher.

*The student must be currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program at FBBC&TS.

Since an application for these funds was not mandatory, the Financial Aid Office, Business Office, and Student Life have been working together to determine which students would be eligible for this aid. We know these funds may not cover all the expenses you have incurred, but trust it will be a help and blessing to you!

Even though this school year did not end the way we all had it “planned”, we are praying that you can see God’s hand in all of this, and not only look for opportunities to serve and minister to others where He has placed you, but also take the time to thank Him for the lessons we have learned through all of this.

We look forward to seeing you all on campus in August!

In His Service,

Alice Bunjer
Financial Aid Director

Updated Information: at this time, Faith has fully committed the fifty percent of the funds received to provide emergency financial grants to students. However, if such funds are returned to the college or are not accepted, Faith will determine how the unused funds will be distributed.