



## Report by University of Nebraska at Kearney Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Sept. 25, 2020

In order to comply with the reporting requirements for CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, the University of Nebraska at Kearney is providing the following information:

UNK has provided the required signature for the certification and agreement form for the Emergency Relief Fund. UNK intends to use 50% of the funds received to provide emergency grants to eligible students. The total amount available is \$1,962,984.

UNK estimates 2,898 students were potentially eligible to receive emergency grant aid through the CARES Act.

Eligibility was established using the 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The Federal Department of Education has prohibited students enrolled in strictly on-line (eCampus) programs from qualifying for these grants. Eligible students were sent an email message with a link to a web-based survey/form in which they identified the types of expenses incurred. The grant award to the student was based on the number of categories in which the student indicated they had expenses. The maximum grant awarded was \$2,000. Students were awarded on a first-come first served basis.

Additionally the University has provided an opportunity for affected student to submit request for exceptional funding through the special circumstances process developed by the Office of Financial Aid, [https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial\\_aid/special-circumstances.php](https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/special-circumstances.php). Financial Aid staff evaluated each request and determined if additional CARES Act grant aid could be provided to the student based upon the request and documentation provided.

Following the initial response to the survey and after several weeks with no responses, we disbursed grants to an additional 28 students who were identified as having additional expenses as evidenced by the student account. Additionally, the survey link was sent to those students who had not responded initially with a reminder of the intent of the grant. Additional awards were made to students who submitted a survey response at that time. Finally, in August of 2020, an increase of \$180 was provided to all respondents.

As of September 25, 2020, grants have been provided to 1,836 students totaling \$1,963,984. The University of Nebraska at Kearney's full allocation has been disbursed.

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