

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Report Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

May 28, 2020

Ayers Career College (OPE ID: 00462100) received education stabilization funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Public Law No: 116-136. This Fund Report applies to the student portion received under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that is designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

The institution appreciates that Congress and the President have made these critical funds available for eligible students who have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. We take receipt of these federal funds seriously and are distributing them in accordance with the CARES Act and implementing guidance.

The institution is making the below information available for transparency purposes and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education’s (“Department”) Electronic Announcement of May 6, 2020.¹ For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Mitch Busada, Vice President of Finance, at cares@ayers.edu.

1. The institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. 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. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is **\$110,255.00**.
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **\$103,025.25**.
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, and thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, as of the date of this Fund Report is **54**.
5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **41**.
6. The methods used by the institution to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act are provided at **Attachment A**.
7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants are provided at **Attachment B**.

¹ See: <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>

Attachment A

Tier 1 Relief: Will receive full monthly living allowance (\$963 per month for dependent students and \$1654 per month for independent students) published by LASFAA for remaining months in school retro-active to March 13, 2020 not to exceed maximum Pell amount for award year 2019-2020

Criteria:

Student or Spouse Laid Off 3/16/20 or later (would also apply to a dependent student's parent). Documented with separation paperwork from the job or proof of unemployment benefits.

Homeless or in a transitional living program as of 3/16/20 or later. (documented by Director if transitional living program, school Campus Director or other authority deemed appropriate by the school's program administrator)

Loss of a spouse (or parent for dependent students) from COVID -19

Tier 2 Relief: Will be divided evenly among all eligible applicants not to exceed monthly living allowances as mentioned above remaining months in school retro-active to March 13, 2020

Criteria:

Transportation Issues related to outbreak (lack of public transportation resources)

Child Care Issues directly caused by COVID – 19 (such as but not limited to day care and school closures)

Increase in costs related to dependent care related to school closures (including extra food expenses, need for technology related items for dependents online education)

Need for technology related to online learning (for Ayers Career College only)

Increase in general living expenses related to COVID-19 (including but not limited to increase in grocery and household items due to shortages, increase in utility expenses from working from home or dependents being home)

All students from both Tiers must have been an active student on or before March 13, 2020 and active as of May 8, 2020 (date of announcement of application). Students were given a deadline of May 14, 2020 to apply for the funds. Eligible students must sign an award letter that will be sent to their email address on record to receive the funds. Checks will be mailed once the signed award letter is received to the address given on the student's application to receive the funds.

10% of funds were held in reserve for the appeals process. All students were notified by email if their application was approved or denied. Students that were denied aid were allowed to appeal the decision by May 21, 2020. After the appeals process the remaining allocated funds were distributed evenly among the active students originally awarded in Tier 2.

Attachment B

Announcements posted on our LMS (Learning Management System):

The screenshot shows an LMS interface for Ayers Career College. The top navigation bar includes 'Teaching', 'Groups', 'Admin', and 'Welcome'. The main content area is titled 'Ayers / Federal Government Emergency Grant Award' and contains two identical announcement messages. The left sidebar lists various LMS features like 'Classes', 'Groups', 'Catalog', 'Users', 'Resources', 'Reports', 'Admin', 'Classes', 'PT Instructor Assessment', 'Groups', 'FUTURE EMPOWERMENT', 'Shortcuts', and 'Facebook'. The announcement text reads: 'Dear Ayers Career College Students, All federal emergency grant applications that were submitted by the May 14, 2020 deadline are being reviewed. Applicants will be notified if they are eligible for the grant funding through email. If you are eligible for the funds you must sign the document sent to your email before your funds can be released. Eligibility for the funds is based on guidance available from the U.S. Department of Education. If you feel that your reward was rejected in error, you have until Thursday, May 21st to file an appeal. Appeal requests may be submitted to cares@ayers.edu. Regards, Torris Ferguson, Campus President'.

Announcements sent to student through Microsoft Teams:

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams chat window titled 'General'. The chat history includes three messages from Torris Ferguson (TF) dated May 12, 2020. The first message is a reminder to submit applications by Thursday, May 14th. The second message includes a link to the application form and a preview of the form titled 'Ayers Application for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund'. The third message provides the email address cares@ayers.edu for questions. A date separator for 'May 15, 2020' is visible, followed by a fourth message from TF dated May 15, 2020, which repeats the information from the first message regarding the review process and appeal deadline.