

# VERMONT LAW SCHOOL – OPE ID: 01193400

## CARES Act – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

### 30-Day Fund Report – July 16, 2020

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act" or the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit a report to the U.S. Secretary Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

As required by the CARES Act and in compliance with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (the "Department"), Vermont Law School reports here its use of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The Department's May 6, 2020 guidance identified seven topics on which each institution receiving funding must report. The Department's requirements appear enumerated in bold/italics below and Vermont Law School's response appears immediately afterwards.

1. ***An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department 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.***

Vermont Law School acknowledges that it signed and returned to the Department 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. ***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.***

Vermont Law School will receive or has received \$500,000 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

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 submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).***

Vermont Law School has distributed \$0 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this report. Vermont Law School plans to start distributing funds to eligible students by July 30, 2020.

***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 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.***

Vermont Law School has an estimated 420 students who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in the Summer 2020 term and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

**5. *The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.***

0 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

**6. *The method(s) 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.***

Requirements for Emergency Financial Aid funding are:

1. Students who have completed a FAFSA or who can document their eligibility for Federal Student Aid programs,
2. Were enrolled in the Spring semester and
3. Are either currently enrolled in the Summer semester and/or Fall semester

**7. *Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.***

Students eligible to receive the funds will receive communications from Vermont Law School's Financial Aid Office that will include the following information about the funds and how to access the funds:

*You have qualified for Coronavirus Assistance, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. The proposed award is \$100. Information about the funding is below. In order to receive the award amount, you must log into your student aid account at [myfinaid.vermontlaw.edu](http://myfinaid.vermontlaw.edu) and change the status of the CARES award on your account from "Pending" to "Accepted" and hit the "Submit" button to confirm*

**What is the CARES Act?** The CARES Act, which appropriated the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), provides students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (i.e., eligible for federal student financial aid), with emergency financial aid grants to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Grants will be distributed to College students with the greatest demonstrated financial need as determined through the 2019-2020 application for financial assistance.

**What is the source of funding for these emergency grants?** HEERF will be the funding source for students eligible for Title IV funds.

**Who is eligible to receive emergency assistance funds?** Eligibility will include students who were enrolled in the Spring 2020 term who are still enrolled at Vermont Law School as of 7/30/2020. All eligible students will automatically be offered a minimum award of \$100. Additional requests will be managed through the [Hardship Scholarship Application](#) process.

**How do students claim these funds?** In order to receive their CARES award they must log into [myfinaid.vermontlaw.edu](http://myfinaid.vermontlaw.edu) and change the status of the CARES award on their account from "Pending" to "Accepted" and hit the "Submit" button to confirm. If a student does not see a CARES award on their account, they may contact the Financial Aid Office ([finaid@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:finaid@vermontlaw.edu)) to provide documentation of their eligibility for Federal Student Aid.

**How will the funds be processed?** After accepting the award through the Financial Aid portal site, the cash grant will be disbursed to your student account for the purpose of directly issuing the funds to you. Cash grants will not be applied against any existing balance due to the College. Students should make separate arrangements to resolve any outstanding balances on their Vermont Law School student account. The cash grant will be identified on the student account as "CARES Act Funds." Campus Billing will be processing payments during the last week of July 2020.

### **Certification Statement**

By claiming this emergency grant through the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), I acknowledge that I am incurring allowable expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus during my enrollment in the Spring 2020 Term of at least, or in excess of, the amount received. Examples of allowable expenses include eligible expenses under my "cost of attendance," which is defined by the U.S. Department of Education to cover expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, and health care. I further acknowledge that these funds are not part of any federal student financial aid award I received for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.