

CARES ACT HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND & CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CRRSA) HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND REPORTING – STUDENT PORTION

The Federal Emergency Grants for Spring 2021

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) signed and returned the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to the U.S. Department of Education on April 21, 2020. An additional certification was not required to receive Higher Education Emergency Relief funds under CRRSA. SEBTS 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. Additionally, SEBTS intends to use no less than the required amount of funds received under CRRSA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Federal Emergency Aid Grant Reporting

SEBTS received \$347,269 from the Department of Education from the CARES Act, \$173,635 of which is reserved for student grants. We also received an additional \$152,731 from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), of which \$76,366 was used for student grants. The total amount of funding used for student grants was \$250,001.

SEBTS received \$847,381 from the Department of Education from the CRRSA Act, \$173,635 of which is reserved for student grants.

As of March 31, 2021, SEBTS has distributed \$250,001 to provide CARES Act & FIPSE Emergency Grants to 149 students. At this point, Southeastern has expended all CARES Act & FIPSE funds designated for student emergency grants.

As of March 31, 2021, SEBTS has distributed \$50,657 to provide CRRSA Act Emergency Grants to 77 students.

During the first quarter (January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021), SEBTS distributed \$56,813 to provide CARES Act, FIPSE, and CRRSA Emergency Grants to 83 students.

Federal Emergency Aid Grant Criteria and Eligibility

CARES Act

Eligible Students

SEBTS used the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) to determine students who were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Students also had to be on-campus, undergraduate students for consideration for CARES Act Emergency Grants. We estimate that 392 students meet these requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year.

On-campus, undergraduate students were sent an email on May 22, 2020 notifying them of the availability of CARES Act Emergency Grant Funds and instructions on how to apply. Students were required to complete a CARES Act application and have a FAFSA® on file with SEBTS. Awards were granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once an award amount had been determined for a student, a check was sent to that student at the address indicated on the CARES Act Application.

SEBTS outlined a three-phase plan for disbursing the student portion of the CARES Funds.

Phase one disbursed \$500 to every eligible undergraduate student who had to move out of campus housing. These funds were to assist students with the costs associated with moving off campus such as gas, renting a moving truck, airplane tickets, etc.

Phase two disbursed funds to students mainly based on enrollment status and Expected Family Contribution (EFC). However, other criteria such as marital status, number of dependents, dependents in college, SBC and non-SBC tuition rate, etc. were considered in some cases. These funds were intended to help students with other expenses due to the disruption of campus operations such as purchasing additional books they could no longer access at the library, loss of access to a meal plan at Magnolia Kitchen (SEBTS' dining hall), new or additional technology needs, etc. Funding in phase two did not necessarily cover all the costs a student incurred, but it was intended to provide a level of assistance.

Phase three provided additional assistance to students who had already received funding in phases one and two. As those two phases may not have covered the entirety of a student's costs associated with the disruption of campus operations, funds awarded in phase three helped cover an additional portion of miscellaneous charges. Awards in each phase could stack for students.

Student Instructions

Undergraduate students had to fill out a CARES Act Application and have a FAFSA® on file with SEBTS to be considered. Applications were accepted for approximately one month. Students were told that this emergency grant could be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including, but not limited to, food, course materials, technology, healthcare, childcare, and travel.

CRRSA Act

Eligible Students

Students had to be U.S. Citizens, degree-seeking, and complete the CRRSA Application to be eligible for funds. To be considered, students had to have a loan or a payment plan in place during the Spring 2021 semester in the amount of at least \$1,000. We estimated that 585 students met these requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Method Used

Identified eligible students were sent an email notifying them that funds were available with instructions on how to apply for the funds. Funds were only be released to students who met the criteria on a first-come, first-serve basis. Award amounts were determined based on need and income. See chart below for levels of funding. Once an award amount was determined for a student, the amount was added to a spreadsheet. The student was then notified of the award and asked to fill out a payment form about how they would like to receive the funds. Once we knew if they would like a check mailed or the award applied to their student account, we processed the award.

SEBTS outlined a plan for disbursing the student portion of the CRRSA Funds.

Funds were allocated to students based on the need of enrolled students. Need was determined by taking multiple pieces of a student's account into consideration such as tuition & fees, student balances, enrollment, other sources of financial aid, etc. Students completed an application to confirm basic student and academic information. The application collected

students' estimated income, which also assisted in determining need. These funds were intended to help students defray the standard elements of their Cost of Attendance (COA).

CRRSA Award Amounts			
Nelnet Plan or Loan Amount	\$1,000+	\$2,000+	\$3,000+
Estimated Income Below \$30,000	\$500	\$700	\$1,000
Estimated Income Below \$45,000	\$400	\$550	\$750
Estimated Income Below \$60,000	\$300	\$400	\$500
Estimated Income Above \$59,999	\$250	\$300	\$350

In some cases, other student data was used to adjust exact award amounts, such as marital status, number of dependents, dependents in college, SBC and non-SBC tuition rate, etc. The above figures represent general awarding categories that may have been adjusted for specific student situations.

Student Instructions

Undergraduate students had to fill out a SEBTS CRRSA Act Application. Applications were accepted for approximately one month.

Students were told that this emergency grant could be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including, but not limited to, food, course materials, technology, healthcare, childcare, and travel.