

## Midwestern State University CARES Act Student Aid Report #4 (10/02/2020) – FINAL (Revised 04/15/2022)

PR/Award No. P425E200196

### Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

Midwestern State University (MSU Texas) acknowledges that the institution has signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the [Certification and Agreement](#) on April 10, 2020. MSU Texas will use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), also known as the CARES Act, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

### Total Award

MSU Texas received a total of \$4,413,874 from the Department of Education under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The amount of funds MSU Texas received on April 21, 2020 for distribution of emergency grants to students was **\$2,206,937**.

### Funds Distributed to Date

The total amount of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of October 1, 2020, is **\$2,207,508**. The additional \$571 was covered by the CARES Act Institutional Portion grant. The application process is now complete. MSU Texas has disbursed all funds from the CARES Act Student Aid award, so this report also serves as the final project report.

### Student Eligibility

The estimated total number of students at MSU Texas eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and meet eligibility to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is **3,993**. This total increased by 725 students with the change in Federal guidance issued on May 21, 2020.

### Total Number of Students Who Have Received Funding

The total number of students, as of October 1, 2020, who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is **3,365**.

After the final student report was published on October 2, 2020, an internal audit of CARES Act funding was completed. Eligibility testing of students receiving emergency financial aid from CARES funding identified 20 students with eligibility related exceptions, totaling \$18,005. Specifically, these students were not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the time of their award.

The emergency financial aid grants for the 20 students were transferred to another HEERF funding source for which the eligibility requirements were met, and 13 students (6 unduplicated students) who were awarded a grant from another HEERF source were determined to be eligible for an emergency financial aid grant under CARES. Therefore, the total number of students who

ultimately received funding from the CARES Act changed from the original reported amount of 3,379 to **3,365**.

### Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

MSU Texas has been committed to assisting all eligible students that may have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to the greatest extent possible with the CARES Act funds available. Funds are being disbursed in three phases. The first phase provided a \$250 emergency grant to all eligible students. The second phase included a grant application with additional funding up to a maximum of \$1,250 (originally anticipated to be \$1,000). Students requested funds based on actual financial need for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. The third phase made applications available to students who became eligible to receive emergency grants as per the more relaxed restrictions of the U.S. Department of Education on May 21, 2020, and who had not previously received a CARES Act emergency grant.

### Instructions and Guidance Given to Students

An initial announcement and instructions to students were provided in an email message to all students on May 1, 2020. Additionally, a [CARES Act webpage](#) was created with background information, answers to frequently asked questions, and a link to the application in the MSU Texas Student Portal.

The communications included the following:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Disbursement information for each phase of the grant awards,
- Application period,
- A link to the application,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Additional emergency aid resources for students