

Midwestern State University CARES Act Student Aid Report #1 (05/20/2020)

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 May 20, 2020, is **\$1,627,850**. Remaining funds continue to be disbursed as part of an application process described further below in methods used to determine which students receive aid and how much they receive.

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 **3,246**.

Total Number of Students Who Have Received Funding

The total number of students, as of May 20, 2020, who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is **3,246**.

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 two 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.

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 both phases of the grant awards,
- Application period,
- A link to the application,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Additional emergency aid resources for students

Copies of informational materials provided to students include the following, which are attached to this report:

1. Email announcement of the availability of funds, disbursement process, and application information dated May 1, 2020
2. MSU Texas' CARES Act information webpage
3. Email notification to all recipients of phase I emergency grants
4. Copy of the application for additional emergency grant funds
5. Email reminder to all recipients of phase I emergency grants of the upcoming application deadline dated May 8, 2020
6. Email notification to all recipients of phase II emergency grants

Dear Mustangs,

We are pleased to announce that MSU Texas has received the first half of federal funds from the [CARES Act](#). This portion of funding provides emergency financial aid grants to eligible students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

To be eligible for CARES Act funding, students need to be enrolled in the 2020 spring semester and eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs. Per the U.S. Department of Education, international, non-U.S. citizens, and students enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, are not eligible for CARES Act funding.

If you find that you are ineligible to receive federal dollars, we have established emergency funds through the generosity of donors, friends, employees, and the local community. To learn more or apply, visit the [COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund webpage](#).

MSU Texas will disburse the CARES Act funds in two phases. The first phase provides all eligible students a \$250 grant via check or direct deposit beginning May 1. No action is necessary to obtain these funds. Please note: For faster payment processing, we encourage you to sign up for direct deposit through TouchNet located in the [my.msutexas.edu portal](#).

The second phase will include a grant application where all eligible students may apply for additional funding up to \$1,000. The CARES Act provides funding for expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and other expenses other than tuition and fees, that resulted from the disruption of campus operations on students this spring with the coronavirus.

The grant application can be found in the [CARES Act community](#) within the [my.msutexas.edu portal](#), and is available now through May 15. The additional grant funds will be awarded beginning May 22. You will be contacted at your my.msutexas.edu email address to either notify you of your application decision or ask for more information.

Additional information regarding disbursements may be found at the [MSU Texas CARES Act webpage](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by email at financial-aid@msutexas.edu or the Business Office at bus.office@msutexas.edu.

Submit [CARES Grant Application](#)

Sincerely,

Fred K. Dietz, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Beth Reissenweber, Vice President for Administration & Finance

CARES Act (Web page)

MSU Texas has received federal funding from the [CARES Act](#), which provides assistance for student expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Eligible students can request funds in these categories:

- Food
- Housing
- Course Materials
- Technology
- Health Care
- Childcare expenses
- Other Expenses (Expenses other than tuition/fees that do not fit any of the above)

Am I eligible?

You may be eligible for CARES Act funding if you are a student who was enrolled in the 2020 spring semester and are eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs.

Per the U.S. Department of Education, international, non-U.S. citizens, and students enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, are not eligible for CARES Act funding.

If you find that you are ineligible to receive federal dollars, MSU Texas has established an emergency fund through the generosity of our donors, friends, employees and local community. To learn more or apply, visit the [COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund webpage](#).

How do I apply?

MSU Texas will disburse the CARES Act funding in three phases.

Phase I: All eligible students received a \$250 grant. No action is necessary. Through the Phase I process, MSU Texas was able to provide immediate emergency financial aid relief to more than 3,000 students, totaling more than \$800,000.

Phase II: In addition to the \$250 grant, an application for additional funds was available through May 15, 2020 with grant funds for approved applications awarded starting May 22. Nearly 1,350 students applied for a Phase II grant. You will be contacted at your my.msutexas.edu email address to either notify you of your application decision or to ask for additional information.

Phase III: Subject to the availability of remaining CARES Act funds after the Phase II disbursement process, eligible students who did not submit a Phase II application and/or students enrolled in summer 2020 classes at MSU Texas may submit a Phase III application for funds. If a Phase III occurs, eligible students will be notified in June via their my.msutexas.edu email address with information on how to apply for these funds.

What is the CARES Act?

The [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) is federal legislation that provides a variety of financial support to individuals and organizations affected by the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic.

The CARES Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that provides more than \$14 billion in emergency funding to higher education. Of those funds, more than \$6 billion must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants (HEERF-student share) for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Midwestern State University will receive a total of \$4,413,874 of which at least half (\$2,206,937) must be provided directly to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. The other half may be used by the university to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction and operations due to the coronavirus.

FAQs

How much will I receive?

We are 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 will be disbursed in up to three phases. The first phase will provide \$250 to all eligible students. The second phase will include a grant application with additional funding up to a maximum award of \$1,250. You should request funds based on your 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, for the time period of the emergency. The actual amount each student will receive is based on the number of applications received and the funds available. The third phase may occur if funds remain after the Phase II process and will likely include an application for eligible students who did not apply for Phase II funds or are enrolled in summer 2020 classes.

How will I receive this money?

Disbursements will be made via check or direct deposit. For faster payment processing, students are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit through Touchnet located in the [my.msutexas.edu portal](https://my.msutexas.edu).

Do I need to repay the money?

No, you will not need to repay any money received through this fund.

Can I apply for funding more than once?

If there are remaining funds after the first application period, a second application process will be available in June. A student may only apply for funds once during the first application period.

Does this funding affect my other financial aid?

No. This is an emergency grant to help you manage unexpected expenses related to the coronavirus, and it will not have any impact on other financial aid you may be eligible to receive.

What if I still have an account balance?

Any CARES Act funding awarded to you will be paid to you directly, and it will not cover any outstanding balances. Any outstanding balance owed to MSU Texas will remain the responsibility of the student.

Are the Emergency Grants taxable?

No. These funds are not taxable.

This emergency student aid program is funded by a \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the CARES Act (PR/Award no. P425E200196).

Dear [STUDENT],

We are happy to let you know that your CARES Act grant for \$250 has been processed! You should receive these funds in your bank account in 2-3 business days.

If you need additional emergency assistance for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, you may apply for additional funding up to \$1,000. The CARES Act provides funding for expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and other expenses other than tuition and fees.

The grant application can be found in the [CARES Act community](#) within the my.msutexas.edu portal, and is available now through May 15. The additional grant funds will be awarded beginning May 22. You will be contacted at your my.msutexas.edu email address to either notify you of your application decision or ask for more information.

Additional information regarding disbursements may be found at the [MSU Texas CARES Act webpage](#). Please visit this webpage to learn about other emergency resources for our students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by email at financial-aid@msutexas.edu or the Business Office at bus.office@msutexas.edu.

Submit [CARES Grant Application](#)

We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall.

Be safe, and stay well!

Dr. Beth Reissenweber and the Business Office staff

NOTE:

This email will be sent to student's MSU e-mail address.

A similar message will be used for inserts to be placed in envelopes with physical checks.

Questions Responses 1,193



Section 1 of 10

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant Application

BEFORE STARTING THIS APPLICATION -- Please verify the accuracy of your current mailing address, telephone number, and email address on file with MSU Texas in WebWorld. Approved grants will be issued in the form of a direct deposit or check sent to a student's current mailing address on file in WebWorld. For faster payment processing, students are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit through Touchnet located in the my.MSUTexas portal. NOTE: This form can only be completed using an MSU University Student Gmail account ending in @my.msutexas.edu.

This form is automatically collecting email addresses for Midwestern State University users. [Change settings](#)

- Share icons: Print, Copy, Email, etc.

After section 1 Continue to next section

Section 2 of 10

Section A: STUDENT INFORMATION

Description (optional)

Student First Name *

Short answer text

Student Last Name *

Short answer text

Address, Telephone, and Email -- Please verify the accuracy of your current mailing address, telephone number, and email address on file with MSU Texas in WebWorld. Approved grants will be issued in the form of a direct deposit or check sent to a student's current mailing address on file in WebWorld. For faster payment processing, students are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit through Touchnet located in the my.MSUTexas.edu portal.

I have reviewed my information on file with MSU Texas in WebWorld to ensure accuracy

After section 2 Continue to next section

Section 3 of 10

Section B1: Food Expenses

SECTION B1: FOOD EXPENSES

Description (optional)

Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for food. If you answer "Yes – I need money for food", you must type in the comment field how much money ON A MONTHLY BASIS you are requesting for food. *

- Yes – I need money for food (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for food

Amount – How much money for food do you need ON A MONTHLY BASIS? (example = 100)

Short answer text

After section 3 Continue to next section

Section 4 of 10

Section B2: Housing Expenses

Description (optional)

Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for housing. If you answer "Yes – I need money for housing", you must type in the comment field how much money ON A MONTHLY BASIS you are requesting for housing. *

- Yes – I need money for housing (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for housing

Amount – How much money for housing do you need ON A MONTHLY BASIS? (example = 250)

Short answer text

After section 4 Continue to next section

Section 5 of 10

Section B3: Course Material Expenses

Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for course materials or supplies necessary to finish the spring 2020 semester. If you answer "Yes – I need money for course materials", you must type in the comment field how much money you are requesting for course materials or supplies necessary to finish the spring 2020 semester.

Course Material Expense *

- Yes – I need money for course materials (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for course materials

Amount – How much money for course materials or supplies do you need TO FINISH THE SPRING 2020 SEMESTER? (example = 50)

Short answer text

After section 5 Continue to next section

Section 6 of 10

Section B4: Technology Expenses

Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for technology necessary to finish the spring 2020 semester (examples: Internet service, a technology-related material required to complete a class that you did not already possess, etc.). If you answer "Yes – I need money for technology", you must type in the comment field how much money you are requesting for technology necessary to finish the spring 2020 semester.

Technology Expenses *

- Yes – I need money for technology (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for technology

Amount – How much money for technology do you need TO FINISH THE SPRING 2020 SEMESTER? (example = 50)

Short answer text

After section 6 Continue to next section

Section 7 of 10

Section B5: Health Care Expenses

Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for health care specifically due to medical expenses caused by the disruption of campus operations from coronavirus. If you answer "Yes – I need money for health care", you must type in the comment field how much money you are requesting for health care.

Health Care Expenses *

- Yes – I need money for health care (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for health care

Amount – How much money for health care due to medical expenses caused by the disruption of campus operations from coronavirus do you need FOR THE ASSISTANCE PERIOD OF MARCH 23 – MAY 15? (example = 100)

Short answer text

After section 7 Continue to next section

Section 8 of 10

Section B6: Child Care Expenses



Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for child care specifically due to unforeseen expenses caused by the disruption of campus operations from coronavirus. If you answer "Yes – I need money for child care", you must type in the comment field how much money you are requesting for child care.

Child Care Expenses *

- Yes – I need money for child care (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for child care

How many dependent children (under the age of 18) are you currently supporting?

Short answer text

Amount – How much money for child care due to expenses caused by the disruption of campus operations from coronavirus do you need FOR THE ASSISTANCE PERIOD OF MARCH 23 – MAY 15? (example = 200)

Short answer text

After section 8 Continue to next section



Section 9 of 10

Section B7 : Other Expenses (Non-Tuition and Fees)



Please indicate if you are requesting grant money for any other essential expenses related to the disruption of campus operations not included in the above categories. DO NOT INCLUDE TUITION AND/OR UNIVERSITY FEES WITHIN THIS "OTHER" REQUEST AS SUCH ITEMS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A CARES ACT EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANT. If you answer "Yes – I need money for other", you must type in the comment field how much money you are requesting for other, AND, you must provide a detailed description of the expense.

OTHER EXPENSES (NON-TUITION AND FEES) *

- Yes – I need money for other (enter \$ amount below)
- No – I will not be needing money for other

Amount – How much money for other essential expenses related to the disruption of campus operations not included in the above categories do you need FOR THE ASSISTANCE PERIOD OF MARCH 23 – MAY 15? (example = 50)

Short answer text

Please describe in detail the nature of the other essential expense(s) for which you are requesting funds.

Long answer text

Section 10 of 10

Section C: Certification



I understand and acknowledge that Midwestern State University is relying on the information I provide herein to determine eligibility for federal funding through the CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant program. I certify the information I have provided on this application is true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I certify that my responses on this application are true, correct, and accurate *

Yes - I certify.



Dear [STUDENT],

The CARES Act application deadline is quickly approaching! We hope that you have already received your CARES Act grant of \$250. If you need additional emergency assistance for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, please submit your application by **Friday, May 15, 2020**.

The CARES Act provides funding for expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and other expenses other than tuition and fees.

The grant application can be found in the [CARES Act community](#) within the my.msutexas.edu portal, and is available now through May 15. The additional grant funds will be awarded beginning May 22. You will be contacted at your my.msutexas.edu email address to either notify you of your application decision or ask for more information.

Additional information regarding disbursements may be found at the [MSU Texas CARES Act webpage](#). Please visit this webpage to learn about other emergency resources for our students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by email at financial-aid@msutexas.edu or the Business Office at bus.office@msutexas.edu.

Submit [CARES Grant Application](#)

We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall.

Be safe, and stay well!

Dr. Beth Reissenweber and the Business Office staff

Dear [Student],

We are happy to let you know that your CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant application for additional emergency assistance has been approved in the amount of [\$XXX]! These funds are provided for expenses you incurred related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. You should receive these funds in your bank account in 2-3 business days.

Additional information regarding disbursements may be found at the [MSU Texas CARES Act webpage](#). Please visit this webpage to learn about other emergency resources for our students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by email at financial-aid@msutexas.edu or the Business Office at bus.office@msutexas.edu.

We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall and continuing online this summer!

Be safe, and stay well!

Dr. Beth Reissenweber and the Business Office staff

NOTE:

This email will be sent to student's MSU e-mail address.

A similar message will be used for inserts to be placed in envelopes with physical checks.