

## **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**

**Purpose:** On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law. This act provided emergency funding in the form of emergency grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. The emergency grant funds will be provided to qualified students to be used for eligible expenses that are currently under a student's cost of attendance budget. These funds are to be used for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

EVMS signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement in order to qualify for the Emergency Financial Aid Grant. According to the Allocation for Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, EVMS will receive \$1,854,791 in aid, of which at least \$765,781 EVMS will use to provide aid to qualifying students. As of June 2021; EVMS has distributed \$201,766 to 302 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act; and has identified additional qualifying students who will receive funding in the summer/fall of 2021. EVMS has an estimated 716 students at the institution who are or could be eligible to participate in the Federal student financial aid programs under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and thus are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act if they incurred qualifying expenses.

As of June 2021, EVMS has used \$347,781.85 of the institutional portion of CARES Act funding to cover graduation fee refunds and other student related expenses.

The methods used by EVMS to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive is listed below.

### **EVMS identified program disruptions due to COVID-19**

EVMS received limited funding, as the institution does not participate in the Pell Grant program. EVMS is required by the CARES Act to provide assistance to students affected by COVID-19 disruption of normal activities. On Monday, March 16, 2020; Dr. Homan announced that all Eastern Virginia Medical School MD and Health Professions students were recalled from all clinical rotations effective immediately and until further notice. Graduating students with required clinical rotations were delayed in their graduation until they are able to complete these requirements. Because these students are completing their spring 2020 courses and are not enrolling in a new term, they will not be charged additional tuition and fees, but will also not qualify for additional Title IV funds. This disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 has caused these students to incur additional cost of attendance expenses like food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare during the period of completing their rotations.

In the fall term of 2020, EVMS divided the remaining available funding of \$89,410.23 equally between 273 students who were identified as having a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and who did not receive CARES Act funding.

Due to limited clinical placement availability in spring 2021, the students participating in the Masters in Art Therapy and Counseling program were required to fulfil their clinical requirements in the summer 2021 term instead of spring, when they were originally scheduled to participate. Since this is not a normal term for the program, students were not charged additional tuition and fees, however, they were also unable to receive additional Title IV funding. This disruption of campus operations due to

COVID-19 has caused these students to incur additional costs of attendance expenses like food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare during the period of completing their clinical requirements.

EVMS is currently evaluating the needs of students to award the remaining funding.

**Determination Method for Student Qualifications** The above disruptions of normal activities will be the focal point of the CARES ACT Emergency Funds. To qualify, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Student must be eligible for Title IV Funding. Student must:
  - Have completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 Academic Year as of March 27, 2020
  - Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree or certificate program that is eligible for federal aid.
  - Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school.
  - For currently enrolled students, be making satisfactory academic progress.
  - Not owe an overpayment on Title IV grants or loans.
  - Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
  - File "as part of the original financial aid application process" a certification that includes
    - A statement of educational purpose.
    - Student's SSN.
  - Be a U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible noncitizen.
  - Have returned fraudulently obtained Title IV funds if convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges.
  - Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits.
  - Have repaid Title IV loan amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits if obtained inadvertently.
  - Have Selective Service registration verified.
  - Have Social Security Number verified.
  - Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.
- Student must have incurred authorized expenses due to the disruption of operations at EVMS because of COVID-19
- Actively participating prior to the disruption of operations
- Actively participating in any modified learning during the disruption of operations (if applicable)

### **Disbursement of Funding**

Any student who feels that they have incurred additional cost of attendance expenses due to the disruption of operations must submit an application to the Financial Aid Office. Financial Aid will review the application and ensure the applicant meets the required qualifications. Funding will be based off of the estimated cost of attendance budget for living expenses for the applicant's specific program and additional length of educational requirements. Financial Aid will contact each applicant with the determination details. Please note, exact awarded amount will be based on number of qualifying applicants. EVMS will initially award to those who demonstrate the most need and funding is not guaranteed to all qualifying applicants due to the limited amount of funds awarded to EVMS through the CARES Act.

Any student who does not participate in the first week of activity will forfeit their grant. Funds will be disbursed to qualified students by Direct Deposit if there is a Direct Deposit Form on file with Accounts Receivable, or by check to the local address on file with the Registrar's Office. Direct Deposit Forms can be accessed by going to the Accounts Receivable website at

[https://www.evms.edu/media/evms\\_private\\_media\\_restricted/all\\_portal/departments\\_/financial\\_services/forms/Direct\\_Deposit\\_Form.pdf](https://www.evms.edu/media/evms_private_media_restricted/all_portal/departments_/financial_services/forms/Direct_Deposit_Form.pdf).