

January 10, 2021

Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: *Essex County College*  
*HEERF Student Emergency Aid Fund Report*

Dear Secretary DeVos:

As required by Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act, Essex County College (“College” or “institution”) submits its initial report concerning the receipt and distribution of the funds allocated to it under the Act.

1. On April 14, 2020, the College signed and returned to the Department of Education (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 institution has received \$3,876,331 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, the total amount that it expected for that purpose.
3. Funds distribution for the Fall 2020 semesters were completed after September 30, 2020 due to ongoing student registrations and Title IV funds distribution.
4. As of the date of this submission, the College has distributed \$ 2,562,360.00.
5. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grant is 5,672 for the Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 semesters combined. The total number of student eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants for the Fall I, Fall Focus, and Fall II 2020 semesters combined is 3,164.
6. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 8,836
7. In order to distribute the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, the College first had to determine eligibility.

Following the guidance of the United States Department of Education, to be currently eligible, a student must:

- Be either a full or part-time Degree/Certificate/Credential-Seeking enrolled for the Fall 2020 semester.

- Eligible to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to verify the following general eligibility requirements.
- The student must have a valid Social Security number.
- Be a U.S. citizen or have qualifying non-citizenship status.
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED.
- Have registered for selective service (if the individual is male and under 26 years of age).
- Fulfilled the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards of Essex County College at the beginning of the Fall 2020 Term.
- A student enrolled in classes for a program that was offered exclusively online during the Spring 2020 Term is not eligible for an emergency grant.
- A student who is in default on a Title IV loan (or who owes refund money on a Title IV grant) is also ineligible for CARES Act funding.
- Non-matriculating students will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

8. No additional awards beyond the automatic awards were offered to students.

9. The College has used many methods to make students aware of the availability of Emergency Financial Aid Grants seeking to ensure that the greatest number of eligible students took advantage of the program.

- The College's website contains a link on its front-page directing students to information about the availability of CARES Act funds This link may be found at: <https://www.essex.edu/caresact/>
- Various social media services were used, such as:
  - Facebook: facebook.com/EssexCountyCollege/photos/a.315538618492206/3061076537271720/?type=3&theater and <https://www.facebook.com/eccstudentlife/photos/a.4415862592171903923247547717693/?type=3&theater>
  - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CALAPiGl5pK/?igshid=33alwkd12ozl>
  - YouTube: <https://youtu.be/tsfaZtMnV7w>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Essex County College

