

Bismarck State College CARES Act Distribution Report

Bismarck State College (BSC) received funds April 27, 2020. The Bismarck State College CARES Act Distribution Report was first published May 26, 2020 (30 days from receipt of funds) and is updated every 45 days. Last updated: September 11, 2020.

1. BSC signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education. The college 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. BSC received \$457,033 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. As of September 11, 2020, BSC has distributed \$457,033.00 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
4. BSC has determined that at least 1,186 students at the institution are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 202 as of September 11, 2020.
6. To determine which students were eligible, BSC pulled a list of students eligible for Federal Title IV funds who had accepted a financial aid award for 2019-2020. BSC then identified which of those were taking on campus classes. Those 786 students then received an email (see below) alerting them to their eligibility for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants with a link to the online form we asked that they fill out.
7. Qualified students were emailed and directed to fill out a simple online form to indicate their need and the amount needed (see below). BSC staff also posted a notice at bismarckstate.edu/coronavirus noting the availability of the CARES funding and a link to the application. A committee consisting of 15 faculty and staff of BSC established guidelines to be used when determining the amount granted per application. A committee consisting of three BSC staff reviewed each application submitted and determined amounts granted in accordance with the established guidelines and according to Education Department guidance. Students who qualified were issued a payment through the BSC Student Finance office in conjunction with BankMobile, the Third-Party bank that partners with BSC to deliver funds to students. Those who did not qualify for federal funding were referred to the BSC Foundation's Student Care Fund or to the BSC Office of Financial Aid.

History of reporting requirements:

Colleges that receive funds under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") are required to post publicly on their websites a report about how they're spending the money, according to [Education Department guidance](#). The report must describe the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund ("HEERF"). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act. Institutions are required to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

Email sent to qualified BSC Students:

From: BSC Counseling

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:19 PM

To: BSC Counseling <bsc.counseling@bismarckstate.edu>

Subject: Coronavirus Financial Assistance

Hello, If you are a BSC student and have experienced expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care or child care, you may be eligible for emergency financial assistance through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act or the BSC Foundation's Project Care. To apply, fill out the application found at <https://bismarckstate.edu/forms/CARES/> and someone from BSC will contact you with more information. If you have questions, please email the BSC Mystic Advising and Counseling Center at bsc.counseling@bismarckstate.edu or by calling 224-5752.

