

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Section 18004(a)(1) HEERF (CARES Act)

The status of the CARES Act funds dispersed to SFSC as of January 4, 2021:

The form authorizing fund dispersal from the CARES Act was submitted to the Florida Department of Education on **April 13, 2020**.

The total amount of funds that SFSC has received from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students
= \$1,055,723

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **January 4 = \$960,423.87**

The total number of SFSC students who 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 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act = **3,451**

The total number of students who have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act = **916**

The methods used by SFSC to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:

Awarding Criteria

Each application will be reviewed as they are received by the Panther Emergency Student Aid Fund Committee which is made up of administrators, staff, and faculty.

Many factors are taken into consideration when making a decision to approve or deny a request, and in determining the amounts to be awarded.

These factors include, but are not limited to:

- The amount of requests received compared to the funds available at the time
- The nature and urgency of the student's emergency/negative impact during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The specific and immediate impact the emergency may have on the student's living and academic circumstances
- Other resources or support that the student may have available to them

The initial maximum award will be \$1,000. Exceptions may be made if circumstances warrant and the PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee recommends.

College Procedure for Awarding Emergency CARE Act Grants

1. The dean, student services will send an email notification to ALL current students informing them about the PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Direct Emergency Cash Grant Application with an explanation of the CARES Act and an invitation to apply if the student has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
2. All applications and supporting documentation (scanned) will be emailed to finaid@southflorida.edu.
3. The dean, student services will create and chair an ad hoc PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee to review each application.
4. The PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee will be made up of (1) the dean, student services (chair); (2) director, financial aid; (3) executive director, institutional advancement; and (4) a faculty member nominated by the Faculty Council.
5. The PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee will review the application and documentation on an ongoing basis.
6. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements as spelled out in the [Student Application Procedure](#).
7. Per the Department of Education, the PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee will take into account the student's SES (socioeconomic status) by using the student's EFC (estimated family contribution) in relation to the student's documented need for emergency funding.
8. The PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee will review and approve, revise, or not approve the grant application.
9. The PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee will recommend the amount the applicant should receive.
10. The initial maximum award will be \$1,000. Exceptions may be made if circumstances warrant and the PANTHER EMERGENCY STUDENT AID FUND Committee recommends.

11. The financial aid director can exercise Professional Judgment (PJ) to make adjustments to the award on a case-by-case basis.
12. Any award made to an SFSC employee or family member must be approved by a vice president.
13. Student applicants will be informed by College email of the committee's decision.
14. Approved applications will be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid to award the grant through the normal College refund process.
15. CARES Act grants are NOT included in the student's Title IV financial aid award limits (cost of attendance).
16. Applications that are not approved may be resubmitted without prejudice to introduce additional need and/or documentation.