

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

September 15, 2020

On April 25, 2020, Zane State College (ZSC) received funding to provide emergency grants to students for unforeseen expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The funding is from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund (HEERF). ZSC must report to the public within 30 days of receipt of the funds how the funds are being used and update every 45 days thereafter. Our September 15th report is below.

1. ZSC signed and returned the Certification and Agreement acknowledging the HEERF Emergency Grant funds to the U. S. Department of Education through grants.gov in April and received notification that the funding was approved on April 25, 2020. ZSC is committed to using no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. ZSC received \$501,082 in emergency grant funds for students.
3. ZSC has distributed the full amount of \$501,200 to students as of August 15, 2020. This includes \$382,650 for spring semester and \$118,550 for summer semester.
4. ZSC estimates the number of students eligible to participate in Title IV programs is 1,260. This includes 883 for spring semester and 377 for summer semester.
5. A total number of 551 students have received HEERF Emergency Grant funding as of August 15, 2020. This includes 411 for spring term and 140 for summer term.
6. ZSC uses an application process in awarding CARES Act Emergency Grant funds to students available through the student portal, My ZSC. Students are able to check a box for the qualifying categories and award amount is based on eligibility and qualification factors. Individual student awards range from \$650 to \$1,050. Student working at clinical sites in spring that extended into summer due to COVID-19 qualified for an additional payment.
7. All students (excluding high school students) enrolled for spring semester were first notified of the grant opportunity on April 16th which included instructions on how to apply for the CARES Act Emergency funding. Additional communications were sent through updated emails, and webpage messages for both spring and summer term. Additionally, the College set up a separate webpage for COVID-19 information and included FAQs on CARES Act Emergency Funding Grants.