Federal legislation titled the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was passed in March 2020 to provide economic relief to individuals and organizations dealing with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this CARES Act, a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) was established for colleges and universities. The information below is the reporting data for required by the US Department of Education.

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the 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.

On April 17, 2020, North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) signed and returned to the US Department of Education the Certification and Agreement in order to receive HEERF money. NHCC has distributed at least 50 percent of the HEERF money received as emergency grant aid to students.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Pursuant to the signed Certification and Agreement, NHCC has received an allocation of $1,510,713 which was distributed as emergency grant aid to students.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter, changed to quarterly reporting beginning on September 30, 2020).

- $1,510,713 as of January 20, 2021 (FINAL REPORT)
- $1,510,713 as of December 6, 2020
- $1,510,713 as of November 20, 2020
- $1,510,713 as of October 7, 2020
- $1,510,713 as of September 1, 2020
- $1,510,713 as of August 7, 2020
- $1,510,634 as of June 17, 2020
- $1,406,650 as of May 13, 2020

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution 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.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, an estimated 3,209 students were eligible to participate in the Federal student financial aid programs under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and thus were 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 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

3,110 students have received an emergency grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Student eligibility requirements for a CARES Emergency Grant payment at the time of our initial disbursement included:

- Enrollment in at least a one credit course offered on-campus with face to face instruction prior to the campus moving to all online courses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for spring semester 2020.
- Enrollment in a course that continued through or started on or after March 8, 2020.

Federal guidelines placed restrictions on who is eligible to receive the CARES Emergency Grant payments. Students who fell under any one of the following criteria, were not eligible for a CARES Emergency Grant:

- High school students (including PSEO and concurrent enrollment)
- International F1 VISA and DACA/Dream Act students
- Students registered for only online courses since the start of the spring semester
- Students that received the discounted senior tuition rate
- Incarcerated students
- Employees of MN State using their tuition benefits to pay for their own classes
- Students who totally withdrew or stopped attending all courses prior to March 8, 2020.

By May 6, 2020, all eligible students received a $275 base grant payment to assist with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 such as food, housing, technology, health care, and child care. Students that demonstrated increased need through the FAFSA by receiving a Federal Pell or MN State Grant disbursement spring semester 2020 received an additional $400 supplemental grant payment.

Approximately 5% of the HEERF money was used for additional awards through an emergency grant application process. Students could complete an online application to request up to an additional $1,500 in emergency grant assistance. The online application closed as of May 14, 2020, due to the high volume of applications received.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

All eligible students received an email at their NHCC email address on May 6, 2020 informing them of their eligibility, method of payment, and option to apply for additional funds. A letter containing the same information was also mailed to their home addresses on May 7, 2020. All ineligible students

received an email on May 6, 2020, informing them of their ineligibility and other resource options available.

Emergency grant payments were released to students on May 6, 2020, through the refund preference the student set up with BankMobile. If the student selected BankMobile, the grant funds were available the same day. If the student selected direct deposit to another bank account, the grant funds would have been available within approximately 2 business days.

Students who had applied for additional CARES Emergency Grant assistance were notified of their application status through their NHCC email address on the date their application was reviewed.

The NHCC Accounting and Fees Office continued to reach out to students through their NHCC email if they had not yet set up their refund preference through BankMobile with instructions on how to complete that process.