

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

On April 14, 2020, Sherman College of Chiropractic (the College) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement required under Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), to receive its allocation of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions 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).

On April 9, 2020, the Department published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a letter from Secretary Betsy DeVos, a form Certification and Agreement for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of institutional allocations under 18004(a)(1). Sherman College of Chiropractic’s total allocation under HEERF is \$136,466. The College elected to make its full allocation of \$136,466 available to students as Emergency Financial Aid Grants rather than limiting these grants to the required 50 percent of the allocation (\$68,233).

As of August 14, 2020, the College has awarded \$136,466.00 to one hundred twenty-three students for an average award of \$1,109.48 exhausting funds available under HEERF. The College has 377 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 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. To apply for a grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students had to complete the CARES Act Emergency Grant Request Form emailed to them from Chris Roberson, Director of Financial Aid. Applications and accompanying documentation were reviewed by the College’s Emergency Loan Committee for award decisions. The Committee did not award more than \$2,000 to any one student for technology needs and did not award more than \$465 to any one student for food unless there was documentation of extenuating circumstances that demonstrated an extraordinary need. While this funding has been exhausted, students with unmet financial need may still apply for funding from the college’s Sherman Pride Student Emergency Fund. Grants from the Sherman Pride Student Emergency Fund are limited to \$500.

Please email financialaid@sherman.edu to: 1) request an application for the Sherman Pride Student Emergency Fund; 2) submit completed application and accompanying documentation; or 3) submit any questions about the Sherman Pride Student Emergency Fund, the HEERF program or the College’s application process.

Sherman College is grateful to have this opportunity to support students during this global pandemic. We encourage students to apply and to follow guidelines provided to ensure a seamless process.