



# CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

## Report and Disclosure

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

## Quarterly Report and Disclosure

January 8, 2021

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (the “Act”) was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Section 18004 of the Act created the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”) for distribution to colleges and universities, intended to help offset costs to students and institutions resulting from campus disruptions due to the Coronavirus. This report is required by Section 18004(e) of the Act and is published here pursuant to the guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

1. Champlain College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement required under the CARES Act with its assurance that the College will use no less than 50% of the CARES Act funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

2. Champlain College is eligible to receive \$684,130 from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) as part of the CARES Act pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. As of December 31, 2020, the College has drawn down \$385,147 from G5.

3. As of December 31, 2020, \$631,422 in funds have been distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

4. Champlain College estimated on September 29, 2020 that 1923 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. This includes new students enrolled for Fall 2020.

5. As of December 31, 2020, 1,130 Champlain College students have received Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

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

Methodology Post August 31, 2020 Federal Register Guidance:

Step 1 - Determine eligible students in accordance with CARES Act and Department of Education Guidance, including the August 31, 2020 Federal Register.

- Students enrolled in an Title IV eligible program, excluding those enrolled in only distance education or online courses and
- Students who meet Title IV eligibility requirements, including having a valid 2019/2020 or 2020/2021 FAFSA and
- Students registered as of March 13, 2020 and graduated at the end of the spring or continued to be enrolled at the College or new students registered for 2020/2021.
- Note, the institution received guidance via email from the Department of Education on 6/28/2020 that students who had met all Title IV eligibility requirements but have graduated are eligible to receive grants. Eligible students who graduated in May 2020 were notified July 17, 2020.

Step 2 - Determine grant amounts for eligible students. Students with an expense related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID are referred to the Director of Financial Aid to determine eligibility for CARES Act funds. The amount of funds awarded are based on the student's individual expenses, not to exceed the recommended maximum award amount (maximum Pell). For distribution of remaining funds, the College may award based on a methodology similar to Step 2 below.

Step 3 – Using Champlain College MyMail and Adobe Sign, eligible students certify that they have qualifying 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) that meet or exceed the grant award for which they are eligible. Students whose eligible expenses are less than the maximum grant award may certify the actual amount of their eligible expenses and will receive that amount in grant funds. Upon completion of the certification form, grant funds are disbursed directly to students.

Methodology Prior to Guidance from the August 31, 2020 Federal Register:

Step 1 – Determine eligible students in accordance with CARES Act and Department of Education and Guidance, including the Interim Final Rule published June 17, 2020:

- Students enrolled in an Title IV eligible program, excluding those enrolled in only distance education or online courses and
- Students who meet Title IV eligibility requirements, including having a valid 2019/2020 FAFSA.
- Note, the institution received guidance via email from the Department of Education on 6/28/2020 that students who had met all Title IV eligibility requirements but have graduated are eligible to receive grants. Eligible students who graduated in May 2020 were notified July 17, 2020.

Step 2 – Determine grant amounts for eligible students based on number of eligible students, financial need (as defined by Expected Family Contribution from FAFSA), and the amount of HEERF – Student Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds received by the College.

- The College awarded the batch grants in the spring 2020 semester to eligible students in the following maximum amounts (EFC according to 2019/2020 FAFSA):
  - Expected Family Contribution 0–5576 (Pell eligibility) = \$700
  - Expected Family Contribution 5577–41728 (tuition) = \$350
  - Expected Family Contribution greater than 41729 = \$150
  
- The College awarded the batch grants in the fall 2021 semester to eligible students in the following maximum amounts (EFC according to 2020/2021 FAFSA):
  - Expected Family Contribution 0–5711 (Pell eligibility) = \$500
  - Expected Family Contribution 5577–41728 (tuition) = \$250
  - Expected Family Contribution greater than 41729 = \$150

In determining these grant amounts, the College set aside (but did not award) funds for students whose eligibility was in question at the time the first batch of awards was made. This included otherwise eligible students who had either graduated or withdrawn or did not complete a FAFSA. This decision was made in order to remain compliant with the changing guidance while also allowing flexibility to award funds later should more students become eligible based on unfolding regulations and guidance.

Step 3 – Using Champlain College MyMail and Adobe Sign, eligible students certify that they have qualifying 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) that meet or exceed the grant award for which they are eligible. Students whose eligible expenses are less than the maximum grant award may certify the actual amount of their eligible expenses and will receive that amount in grant funds. Upon completion of the certification form, grant funds are disbursed directly to students.

7. The instructions, directions, or guidance provided by Champlain College to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants are sent via MyMail, Adobe Sign, text, and/or published on the College’s website.