

CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Distribution Process
Missouri State University-West Plains

MSU-West Plains will distribute its allocation for emergency financial aid from the federal Education Stabilization Fund pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act through the following three phase process.

Phase 1 – Immediate Assistance Grant (\$166,250)

The Immediate Assistance Grant is designed to provide immediate relief to our students with significant financial need for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Immediate Assistance Grants in the amount of \$250 will be automatically awarded and immediately distributed to students who meet all of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled as a degree-seeking student at MSU-West Plains;
- Not enrolled exclusively in online programs; and
- Have an expected family contribution of less than \$12,001.

Phase 2 – COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant (\$168,000)

The COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant is designed to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Grants will be awarded to assist undergraduate students who are experiencing financial hardship caused or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Grants may be awarded to students who meet all of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled as a degree-seeking student at MSU-West Plains;
- Eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965;
- Not enrolled exclusively in online programs;
- Have documented financial need or hardship due to coronavirus (e.g., substantial expenditures or loss of income, low expected family contribution, inability to pay for expenses included in the cost of attendance, etc.); and
- Have made reasonable use of other sources of support.

Students may apply for a COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant by submitting to the Financial Aid Office a completed application by May 15, 2020. Applicants who have not already submitted a 2019-2020 FASFA form must also submit a FASFA form by May 15 to verify Title IV eligibility.

After May 15, the application will be reviewed by a COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant Review Committee, which will be composed of members appointed by the Chancellor of MSU-

West Plains. The Committee may require additional information or documentation to support a student's application.

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grants are not renewable. Award amounts will be determined based on a student's eligibility and circumstances but will not exceed \$1,000 per application. A total of 168 applicants each received \$1,000 in this phase of the distribution.

Phase 3 – Distribute Remainder (\$145,833)

If funds remain after decisions have been made on all timely and properly filed COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant applications, MSU-West Plains will distribute the remaining funds in a manner similar to the immediate assistance grant process outlined above. Those students who meet the eligibility requirements from Phase 1 and Phase 2 will receive the remaining funding. To create the list for Phase 3, the list from Phase 1 was expanded by removing the EFC threshold which also would lead to the inclusion of students from Phase 2.

The creation of the Phase 3 recipient list resulted in 776 students each receiving \$188 for a total distribution of \$145,888. While only \$145,833 remained in the student portion of the CARES Act, \$55 was used from the institutional portion of the CARES Act to arrive at a whole number for the amount to be distributed to each student.

The cumulative amount of all distributions to a student under the three phases of this process shall not exceed \$6,195.