

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “ to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the first award The College of Wooster received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E203012.

The College of Wooster signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education on April 21, 2020 and received the grant award notification on April 28, 2020. In accordance with the terms of the certification, the College will 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 directly to students.

The College of Wooster has received a total of \$1,417,795 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF from the Department of Education. Pursuant to the College's Certification a G

The College of Wooster created a brief online secure survey asking students to confirm that they experienced additional expenses, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses, related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus in the amount of approximately \$2,500. The Director of Financial Aid, in collaboration with the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Senior Dean of Students, then evaluated each application individually and awarded emergency financial aid grants to those students who identified such expenses in amounts between \$500 and \$2,500, depending on need.

In addition to responding to requests through the online survey, The College of Wooster identified the neediest population of students, which included all Pell Grant recipients as well as those individuals with Expected Family Contributions (EFC), as determined by the FAFSA, of below a certain level. These students who were deemed to be part of the neediest population and had not identified themselves through the online survey and therefore were not initially awarded grants through self-reporting, were subsequently sent emergency financial aid grants. Individuals who were identified as dependent students were sent an award in the amount of \$1,000, and those who were identified as independent students were sent an award in the amount of \$2,500. The College of at

