

## **About the CARES Act and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)**

On March 27, 2020 the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). A portion of HEERF funds must go directly to eligible students in the form of emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Emergency Assistance Grant application is sent to students via Docusign.

All students must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and will be awarded an emergency grant if qualified. If you did not file a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 Aid Year, you can do so at [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/FAFSA) (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>). Once the Financial Aid Office certifies you are eligible, you will be sent the Docusign Emergency Assistance Grant application. Please see below the eligibility instructions.

**The following information is provided by MDT as required by the Department of Education in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CARES Act.** This is the College's first 30-day progress report and presents information as of June 24, 2020. Additional reports will be provided every 45 days.

### **1. Certification and Agreement**

On May 05, 2020, MDT signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the College 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.

### **2. Amounts Received**

Pursuant to the Certification and Agreement, MDT College has received from the Department of Education \$508,530 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students on May 14, 2020.

### **3. Amounts Distributed to Date**

As of the date of this submission, September 11, 2020 MDT has distributed \$394,061.

### **4. Estimated Number of Eligible Students**

As of the Summer and Spring 2020 academic semester, MDT College estimates that approximately 300 students, may be eligible for the Emergency Assistance Grant funds.

## 5. Number of Students who have Received HEERF Emergency Grant Funds

As of the date of this submission, 310 students have received Emergency Assistance Grant funds.

Updates: All Summer semester students, who were eligible, received their funds.

## 6. Method of Determining Which Students Would Receive HEERF Emergency Grant Funds

**\$114469**- This is the amount left to distribute for the second round for the Fall Semester. Funds will be distributed after October 15 until November 30.

This distribution will be based on the enrolment status as follows

Full time Chicago students with

12 and more credits received the highest award of \$420;

9 but less than 12 - \$380;

6 but less than 9 credits - \$300

less than 6 credits received \$180.

Following is a summary of the College's procedure for determining how the HEERF Emergency Assistance Grant funds will be distributed:

- \$114,469 left to distribute for Fall semester and will be distributed based on students' enrolment status.
- Any funds remaining after the November 30, funding time period, will be awarded to eligible students on a case-by-case basis taking into account each student's unique circumstances and needs. The College will continue to make awards consistent with the CARES Act and the College's policy until the HEERF Emergency Assistance Grant funds are fully distributed.

## 7. Instructions, Directions and Guidance Regarding HEERF Emergency Grant Funds

MDT College developed a DocuSign application process for students to apply for the Emergency Assistance Grant funds.

- The first round of funds was distributed to all eligible students in Summer semester

## **UPDATES:**

- The next round will start on October 15 and will be open until November 30.
- You will receive a DocuSign application to apply for the second round
- The MDT team of staff from different departments will review applications on a regular and ongoing basis to determine eligibility and allocated amount based on financial need. A member of the team will communicate with the student if there are concerns or if additional information is needed;
- The student will receive an email sent to his/her MDT College address with a decision.
- Grants will be awarded by check, and mailed to the physical address currently on file with the College.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Here's what's required:

- Enrollment in a degree-seeking program as an undergraduate student, or as a graduate student with Title IV eligibility [Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans]. College Credit Plus students are ineligible.
- Eligible as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA (see details below this list)
- U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen
- A valid Social Security number
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in their course of study
- Do not owe a refund on grants previously received or in default on any federal student loans
- Must have been enrolled in at least one class in spring or summer 2020 semester.

According to U.S. Department of Education, only students who are eligible to participate in Federal Title IV programs may receive CARES Act funds. Therefore, if you already filed a 2019-20 FAFSA and receive Title IV aid, then you are eligible to apply for CARES Act funds.

If you have not filed a FAFSA, please apply at [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/FAFSA) to be considered.

## **ALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

- Food expenses may include unexpected grocery expenses or a student supporting dependent children now home due to their school or childcare closure.

- Technology expenses may include computer equipment, internet access expenses, printer supplies, etc. required for student success when transitioning to an online format from the traditional in-person class structure.
- Health care expenses may include the cost of unanticipated or unusual medical expenses due to coronavirus or its effects.
- Childcare/Dependent care expenses may include the cost of unanticipated or unusual care expenses for a student's child or other dependents in the independent (based on FAFSA) student's household.
- Transportation expenses may include the cost of unanticipated or unusual travel expenses related to the disruption of campus operations. This may include additional trips to the college to retrieve personal belongings or difficulty in making car payments due to income loss from this economic disruption.
- Housing expenses may include unanticipated expenses in securing housing and/or rent for residential students after the closure of campus housing in March. This may also include difficulty in making rent or mortgage payments due to income loss from this economic disruption.

Please note that the intent of the CARES Act is to provide emergency cash grants to students to cover their emergency personal expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.

Please ensure you have what you need to cover these expenses before using any emergency grant funds to make payment on an outstanding student account balance. MDT College will not withhold any CARES Act funds to cover balances.

***Whom may I contact with questions?***

Students who require assistance in completing the application, or have other questions, may contact the following offices weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Financial Aid office will provide help with general questions

Student Accounts/ Bursar office will help with questions related to CARES grant check.