**West Virginia University at Parkersburg**

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021**

**CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid to Students**

Statutory Authority: Section 18004 (e) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2-21 (CRRSAA), Pub. L. No 116-260, (January 14, 2021) provided $876,544 to West Virginia University at Parkersburg that was restricted for distribution of emergency 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, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Section 1004(a)(1) requires the following information to be made available in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public within 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation of funds (February 24, 2021) from the Department of Education. The following information includes all required disclosures:

1. West Virginia University at Parkersburg signed and returned to the Department of Education, the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution would use $876,544 of the funds received under CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
2. West Virginia University at Parkersburg also received $2,439,847 in CRRSAA Institutional funds. As permitted by CRRSAAWVUP elected to add $218,290.25 of unspent institutuional CARES funds and $61,165.75 of CRRSAA Institutional fundssto supplement the amount available for emergency grants to students.
3. As of February 24, 2021, West Virginia University at Parkersburg has disbursed a total of $1,157,000 pursuent to CRRSAA in emergency grants to students.
4. The total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under CRRSAA is **1,437 students.**
5. The total number of students who have received an CARES and CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid Grants as of February 24, 2021 is **2,485 students**.
6. West Virginia University at Parkersburg determined that any student who was fully enrolled in a matriculating degree program and were financially impacted by the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus is eligible. Eligibility for Section 484 of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 **was not a factor** for the distribution of CRRSAA. All students who were PELL eligible as a result of completing the 20-21 FAFSA were considered to be of higher need and were eligible to receive $1,100. Students who were not eligible for PELL received $500 in student emergency funds.
   1. University officials identified the following campus provided resources that were lost during the disruption of services caused by the Coronavirus:
      1. Under normal operating conditions, the University provides all students with access to computer labs, printers, photocopiers, and workstations throughout its Parkersburg and Ripley campuses.
      2. The University provides students who have food security issues access to our on-site student food pantry which was not available during campus closure.
      3. Students with young children received preferential rates and access to our on-site childcare facility. Financial and safety considerations led to the closing of the on-campus childcare facility.
      4. The University offers student support and mental health support services on our campuses. The significant changes caused by the Coronavirus and the related disruption to our campuses caused heightened anxiety and stress which manifested itself in a greater need for assistance and support.
   2. Nearly all students who are attending campus-based courses utilize computer hardware, WIFI, photocopiers, software, and printers provided at the campuses, When the Coronavisus forced the closing of our campuses, these resources were no longer available to students. Moving to a 100% online format meant that students had no choice but to obtain these resources on their own. The University believes that this factor alone qualifies any student who meets the eligibility requirements under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and who were not previously enrolled in 100% online majors to receive a baseline allocation to cover the cost of acquiring hardware (computers, printers, or other required electronic devices) and to help pay for WIFI access through DSL internet or “hot spot” technology. These students were eligible to receive a base CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid Award of $500.
   3. The remaining funds available were distributed to eligible students who exhibited a greater financial need (PELL Eligible). Proof of PELL eligibility was based on the 20-21 FAFSA.
   4. Before any Emergency Financial Aid Grants were distributed, each student’s eligibility was confirmed by a financial aid counselor’s review of FAFSA status.
   5. The University established a separate refund code to track all CRRSAA Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to ensure that funds were not diverted to pay any balances due to the University for unpaid tuition or fees. Once the disbursements were processed, a file was sent to Bank Mobile who disbursed the funds based on the individual student’s choice. Students were permitted to chose to have the funds deposited into a bank account, posted to a prepaid debit card that is valid in all locations that accept Mastercard or Visa, or by a check sent to them through US mail.
7. Communications to Students – Eligible students were notified by email.