

CARES Act Higher Education Provisions: Initiatives and Resources to Provide Relief to Students and Institutions

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In March, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, more commonly known as the CARES Act. The Act contains several provisions that resulted in direct and some cases indirect relief for students and institutions. The following is a summary of key higher education provisions including Section 18004 (a)(1) , (a)(2) and (a)(3) and Section 18002.

EDUCATION STABILITY FUND PROVISIONS

The [Education Stability Fund](#) provides for two funding streams: direct institutional funding and funding for state needs provided to Governors' offices.

Direct Institutional Funding: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

Oregon public and private higher education institutions received \$134M in direct funding. The largest bulk of this funding (\$126.7M) was through Section 18004 (a)(1), and for that fund, the allocation formula provided 75% of available funding based on Pell full-time equivalent (FTE) students, and 25% based on non-Pell FTE students. Of this total, \$40.7M was received by community colleges, \$59.9M by public universities, and the remaining \$26m by the private education sector. Institution specific allocations are listed on page 2-3. Generally, there are restrictions on funds use for Section 18004 (a)(1):

- 50% of funds must be allocated to emergency student aid
- 50% of funds may be used for expenses related to COVID-19
- Funds may not be used for enrollment, recruitment, capital, religious activity, or athletics activity

In addition, some institutions received funding through Section 18004 (a) (2) focused on Strengthening Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions(AANAPISI), Developing Hispanic-serving Institutions (DHSI), Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA), and Strengthening Institutions Programs (SIP). Some institutions received funding through Section 18004 (a) (3) Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Institution specific allocations are listed on page 2-3.

Governor's Office Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

Through Section 18002, a total of \$2.95B in ESF dollars are reserved for allocation to governors' offices based on a formula that considers the states' 5-24-year-old population and the preliminary 2020 formula count for Title I, Part A ESSA distributions. **Oregon will receive \$32.5M from this portion of the fund.** Dollars are discretionary for use in K-12 and higher education. The Office of the Governor is partnering with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to carry out grant activities related to GEER Fund. The funds are subject to a maintenance of effort provisions that may be waived by USDOE for reasons of hardship.

FINANCIAL AID PROVISIONS

Additional relief is provided by the Act to federal student aid recipients and borrowers.

- Institutions can use Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG; discretionary institution-based need aid) funds for emergency aid
- Students will continue to receive work study funds even if unable to work
- Students who withdraw due to Coronavirus-related barriers do not need to return federal student aid
- Student loan payments are suspended through Sept. 30 without interest
- USDOE required to cancel debt of student for term if they withdraw due to a qualifying emergency

See [the Federal Student Aid Coronavirus website](#) for more information.

CARES Act Distributions to Oregon Institutions under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund								
	Section 18004 (a)(1)		Section 18004 (a)(2)				Section 18004 (a)(3)	Total
Institution	Student Aid Portion	Institutional Portion	Strengthening Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPISI)	Developing Hispanic-serving Institutions (DHSI)	Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA)	Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP)	Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)	
Blue Mountain	\$483,431	\$483,431	-	\$62,998	-	-	-	\$1,029,860
Central	\$1,591,836	\$1,591,836	-	-	-	\$157,498	-	\$3,341,169
Chemeketa	\$2,875,369	\$2,875,369	-	\$367,244	-	-	-	\$6,117,982
Clackamas	862,463	\$862,463	-	-	-	\$86,637	-	\$1,811,563
Clatsop	\$222,421	\$222,421	-	-	-	\$22,243	\$32,916	\$500,000
Columbia Gorge	\$187,819	\$187,819	-	\$24,390	-	-	\$99,972	\$500,000
Klamath	\$349,657	\$349,657	-	-	-	\$34,515	-	\$733,829
Lane	\$1,507,133	\$1,507,133	-	-	-	\$149,155	-	\$3,163,421
Linn Benton	\$1,303,338	\$1,303,338	-	-	-	\$130,296	-	\$2,736,971
Mt. Hood	\$1,692,829	\$1,692,829	-	-	-	\$169,437	-	\$3,555,095
Oregon Coast*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portland	\$6,269,372	\$6,269,372	-	-	-	\$619,774	-	\$13,158,517
Rogue	\$1,261,641	\$1,261,641	-	-	-	\$123,516	-	\$2,646,797
Southwestern	\$540,845	\$540,845	-	-	-	\$53,063	-	\$1,134,753
Tillamook Bay	\$157,889	\$157,889	-	-	-	\$15,374	\$168,848	\$500,000
Treasure Valley	\$498,832	\$498,832	-	\$63,480	-	-	-	\$1,061,144
Umpqua	\$560,927	\$560,927	-	-	-	\$54,817	-	\$1,176,670

Subtotal, Colleges	\$20,365,799	\$20,365,799	-	\$518,112	-	\$1,616,325	\$301,736	\$43,167,771
EOU	\$579,164	\$579,164	-	-	-	\$56,980	-	\$1,215,307
OIT	\$903,637	\$903,637	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,807,273
OSU	\$7,779,999	\$7,779,999	-	-	-	-	-	\$15,559,998
PSU	\$8,320,203	\$8,320,203	-	-	-	\$819,349	-	\$17,459,754
SOU	\$1,711,040	\$1,711,040	-	-	-	\$169,157	-	\$3,591,236
UO	\$8,047,973	\$8,047,973	-	-	-	-	-	\$16,095,946
WOU	\$2,140,842	\$2,140,842	-	-	-	\$209,895	-	\$4,491,578
OHSU	\$506,097	\$506,097	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,012,193
Subtotal, Universities	\$29,988,952	\$29,988,952	-	-	-	\$1,255,381	-	\$61,233,285
Private Non-Profit	\$9,220,138	\$9,220,138	\$9,560	\$49,323	\$8,060	\$129,806	\$3,448,939	\$22,085,963
Private For-Profit	\$1,857,045	\$1,857,045	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,714,089
Private Career	\$1,922,795	\$1,922,795	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,845,590
Subtotal, Private	\$12,999,977	\$12,999,977	\$9,560	\$49,323	\$8,060	\$129,806	\$3,448,939	\$29,645,642
TOTAL Distribution	\$63,354,728	\$63,354,728	\$9,560	\$567,435	\$8,060	\$3,001,512	\$3,750,675	\$134,046,698
*We believe Oregon Coast Community College is included with PCC since they only recently gained separate accreditation.								
More information on these programs can be found at: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html								