

CARES Act Updates for NWOSU

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) was awarded \$1,506,494. Half of these funds are designated for direct benefit to eligible students enrolled at NWOSU. Below are guidelines updates on the distribution of those funds.

On May 11, 2020, NWOSU completed the required certification requesting funds designated for student distribution in the amount of \$753,247 with the Department of Education. The following methodology was established for calculation and distribution of funds for emergency financial aid grants to eligible students.

Based on the March 13, 2020, date of the Federal Emergency Declaration, enrollment records were pulled for all students. From the total student population enrolled for the spring 2020 semester, the following student groups were excluded from the calculation and were not paid funds from the stimulus money.

- Concurrent Students
- Incarcerated Students
- DACA/Undocumented Students
- Other International Students
- Students enrolled in all on-line classes prior to March 13
- Students who withdrew from the University prior to March 13
- Students not fully admitted to NWOSU

Total credit hours for the spring 2020 semester equal 21,059. The above population totaled 2,214 credit hours. This leaves 18,845 eligible credit hours to be used for distribution calculations. The decision was made to pay eligible students \$38.00 per credit hour enrolled for the spring 2020 semester. A total of 1,406 NWOSU students meet the eligibility requirements to receive the emergency financial aid grant funds.

The first round of students to receive funds was those that had filed a FAFSA and passed all of the Federal edits and were fully admitted to NWOSU. All remaining students from the above pool were sent an email asking them to self-certify they met the eligibility requirements. This included being a US citizen or eligible noncitizen, having a valid Social Security number and being registered with Selective Service (for male students). A second part of the certification stated that by accepting the funds the student certified the money would be used to pay eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care. Once certified, the funds were processed for stimulus payment. Students had the opportunity to decline the funds due to not meeting the eligibility requirements. NWOSU used university email to make the initial contact. Follow-up phone calls were made to students not responding based on the cell phone or permanent phone numbers on file in the Registry Office.

Funds were deposited electronically through Herring Bank for students that had banking information on file. As students were contacted, they were encouraged to set up electronic

banking information if not on file. For eligible students that did not follow through, a paper check was processed and mailed to their permanent record on file with the Registry Office. The following shows the payment distribution of CARES funds to eligible students:

- May 20, 2020 \$500,384 (954 students)
- May 29, 2020 \$95,722 (181 students)
- June 4, 2020 \$13,376 (28 students)
- June 12, 2020 \$50,692 (110 students)
- June 24, 2020 \$12,274 (26 students)
- July 15, 2020 \$11,438 (26 students)
- July 24, 2020 \$4,256 (10 students)
- August 12, 2020 \$4,294 (9 students)

On June 12, 2020, Northwestern Oklahoma State University certified with the Department of Education the institutional portion of the CARES funding in the amount of \$753,247.

The following funds have been received by NWOSU:

- June 24, 2020 \$171,667 (Housing Refunds)
- June 24, 2020 \$214,266 (Board Refunds)

On July 16, 2020, Northwestern Oklahoma State University certified with the Department of Education the Strengthen Institutions Programs (SIP) of CARES funding in the amount of \$73,506.

Any questions about the CARES Act information listed above, please contact Dr. David Pecha, Vice President for Administration, (580) 327-8528 or email dmpecha@nwsu.edu.

Status Updates Revised August 19, 2020

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