



BERGIN UNIVERSITY of CANINE STUDIES

CARES ACT Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) REPORT ON EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS TO STUDENTS Report as of September 15, 2020

On March 27, 2020, the Federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub L. No. 116-136, providing funds to institutions from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to make Emergency Financial Aid 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. The law requires institutions to report certain information related to the use of these funds. Bergin University of Canine Studies (OPE ID 04176300) was a recipient of these funds.

The following information is reported for the period, July 2, 2020 to September 15, 2020.

- I. This statement shall serve to acknowledge that Bergin University of Canine Studies signed and returned to the US Department of Education the *Certification and Agreement - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students* on June 26, 2020. We further attest that our institution has used, and/or 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.
- II. The total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Student is **\$ 12,913.**
- III. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **\$ 12,913.**
- IV. The estimated total number of students at our institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is **23.**
- V. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to date is **11.**

- VI. The following is the method used by our institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much each student will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Following the Secretary of Education's April 9, 2020 guidance to allocate funds based upon student need and to ensure as wide a distribution as possible, Bergin University of Canine Studies developed an initial allocation model to distribute funds to all projected eligible students who were in an active status as of March 13, 2020. The students who are Pell Grant eligible are projected to receive \$650. The students who are Federal Financial Aid eligible but not Pell Grant eligible are projected to receive \$450.

Only 12 of the 23 Financial Aid eligible students applied for the grant. Therefore, a higher distribution amount was awarded to each student. Students who are Pell Grant eligible received \$1,300. Those students who are Financial Aid eligible but not Pell Grant eligible received \$1,100.

- VII. Instructions that were provided by our institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants are attached below.

Bergin University of Canine Studies notified and provided information to students about the emergency financial aid grants through the distribution of emails to all eligible students (those students who were enrolled as of March 13, 2020 and are still enrolled at the school). See emails attached. Applications have been received from the students and distributions will be made upon verification of each student's eligibility in the program.

For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Denise Gregersen, Chief Operating Officer at denise@berginu.edu.

Initial Announcement to Students ~ emailed to students on Tuesday, June 2, 2020

To: Bergin University Current Students,

I have blind copied you on this email so as not to share your private email addresses. The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in March, will provide funding to Bergin University as emergency aid directly to students. Bergin University is currently developing a plan to equitably and fairly distribute the CARES Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants, based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. At this point, the funds have yet to arrive. Once the school receives funding, you will be notified of the process.

To apply for and receive an emergency grant, students must be enrolled in one of Bergin's eligible programs and qualify for federal aid as determined through filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who have not yet filed the 2020-2021 FAFSA can still do so at <https://studentaid.gov/>. Bergin's OPEID Number is 04176300 - this number is required to be used on the FAFSA. If you have not already filled out the FAFSA, and believe you would qualify for financial aid, we suggest you do so as soon as possible so that you are eligible to receive grant funding when it arrives. **Make sure you choose the 2020-2021 FAFSA application!**

Bergin University of Canine Studies students can use the CARES Act Student Emergency Relief Fund grant for expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic. The expenses are described as the "cost of attendance" as defined in the Higher Education Act, including but not limited to food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare expenses. The grants will be only available to Title IV federal financial aid eligible students in approved programs, including undergraduate and Master graduate degree-seeking students. The requirement for eligibility is defined by the CARES Act, as interpreted by the U.S. Department of Education, not the University. The amount distributed to individual students will depend on the amount received and the number of eligible students.

Bergin University is committed to supporting our students during this unprecedented time and has been working diligently to supply the needed documentation to the U.S. Department of Education to receive these HEERF funds for our eligible students. If you have questions, please contact Denise Gregersen at denise@berginu.edu, however, we have no further information other than what has been shared in this email at this time. We will keep you informed of our progress, and further requirements or announcements via email.

Best,

Becca Richardson, MS
Chief Academic Officer
Bergin University of Canine Studies
becca@berginu.edu
www.berginu.edu

Announcement to Bachelor Students ~ emailed to BS students on July 8, 2020

As a continuing Bergin student, you have received an email encouraging you, if you have not already filed the FAFSA, to do so to see if you qualify for financial aid. You can access the FAFSA at this link: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>.

The University has filled out all paperwork required by the Department of Education to receive HEERF grant money that will be dispersed to students who qualify for financial aid to assist with “rent, food and other extras” due to COVID-19 and changes schools have had to institute. This is grant money and is not a loan – if you qualify, you do not need to pay this money back to the federal government.

We hope you have chosen to fill out and submit the FAFSA to see if you qualify for this grant money. The rules and restrictions regarding this grant are from the Department of Education and Bergin University has no authority to change them. While the University has received no federal government student monies as yet, we are hoping to hear within the next week, and therefore be able begin dispensing monies shortly thereafter.

Bergin University is following the lead of many other California colleges by keeping tuition at the same rate rather than increasing it despite the increased costs in purchasing an online platform, training our faculty and providing new safety precautions on campus such as a disinfectant sprayer, an air filtration system in every classroom, and touchless faucets and hand sanitizers. And while other colleges have chosen to increase their tuition due to these increased costs, the University has chosen to absorb the costs.

Bergin University is also not offering the fall semester using a traditional online platform, but rather Google G Suite Enterprise for Education, which provides faculty the ability to offer live class sessions. This platform provides added security and benefits, more than what is available by solely using Google Meet or Classroom.

Students will receive a semester schedule as usual and classes will be held at specific times in a synchronous format (live class sessions) rather than an asynchronous format (video sessions). The University has opted for this “remote learning” rather than the older, more traditional online learning that provides more of an asynchronistic style without student/instructor interaction.

All Bergin University AS, BS and MS students will take the same courses as previously scheduled for the 2020-21 school year. However, the courses have been rearranged to better suit the synchronistic remote learning with the hands-on experiential courses scheduled for the spring semester as well as lecture courses.

Second-year Bachelor students will have the option of fostering a Bergin dog and training him/her in their homes. Devan Amundsen will be available via Google Meet or email to work with students who have chosen to foster a Bergin dog and to work on their training skills during the fall semester. This is not mandatory but is an option.

We hope you are having a good summer but are also staying safe! Please do not hesitate to email if you have any questions.

Best,

Becca Richardson, MS
Chief Academic Officer
Bergin University of Canine Studies
becca@berginu.edu
www.berginu.edu

Email to Students with application attached ~ emailed on Friday, July 10, 2020

To: Bergin University Current Students,

Happy Friday!

I hope you're enjoying the summer as best you can with the pandemic going on. I sure hope you, your family and friends are all healthy.

You have now received both of Becca's emails dated June 2 and July 8 which mentioned that funds were allocated to Bergin University by the Department of Education's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Bergin has finally received these funds. I've attached an application to this email for you to fill out to receive a portion of this money specifically for extra expenses you incurred to in order to continue your education at Bergin University related to COVID-19. The application will take you less than 2 minutes to complete.

In order to qualify to receive the HEERF, you need to be eligible to receive Federal Financial Aid. You don't need to take the funds from financial aid but need to be eligible for it in order to receive the HEERF. To apply for and receive an emergency grant, students must have been enrolled at Bergin on March 13, 2020 and be now enrolled in one of Bergin's degree programs. We will be able to determine if you qualify for these funds once you complete the process of filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who have not yet filed the 2020-2021 FAFSA can still do so at <https://studentaid.gov/>. Bergin's OPEID Number is 04176300 - this number is required to be used on the FAFSA. If you have not already filled out the FAFSA, and believe you would qualify for financial aid, we suggest you do so NOW.

There is a chance Bergin will receive extra funds. There was early notification that the school would receive quite a bit in extra funds via the CARES Act's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). However, the Department of Education quickly decided to re-evaluate that decision since there was a lot of backlash regarding small schools getting such a large grant. But if Bergin University does receive extra funds, we expect to add more to the student portion. At this time, Bergin University has received \$12,913 designated for students. The amount distributed to each student will depend on the number of applications received.

Please return your completed application attached (SUPER EASY) to me by Friday, July 24 to be eligible to be included in the distribution of the funds. **Late applicants might not receive the funds** since we want to get these funds into the hands of eligible students.

Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions.

Denise Gregersen, Chief Operating Officer
Bergin University of Canine Studies
707-545-3647
www.berginu.edu



BERGIN UNIVERSITY of **CANINE STUDIES**

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act

The U.S. Department of Education has made Emergency Financial Aid Grants available to students of our institution who are in need of financial support for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus. This application permits students to apply for these need-based grants. Campus administration will use the information you provide here to determine your eligibility for a grant and the amount for which you will be eligible. Each student will be eligible for only one grant, and only one application will be considered per student. Please fill out this information neatly and completely and provide it to the Finance Department. Only students who were enrolled in school on March 2020 and are still enrolled in one of the programs and who are in good standing will be eligible to receive a grant.

Student Name: _____ Email: _____

Address (where you can receive your Grant check): _____

Have you filled out a 2020/2021 FAFSA? ___ Yes ___ No

Have you incurred expenses due to disruptions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic? ___ Yes ___ No

Check all situations that apply to you.

- _____ I am financially responsible for my food expenses
- _____ I am financially responsible for my housing expenses
- _____ I am financially responsible for expenses related to my course materials to attend school
- _____ I am financially responsible for paying for technologies associated with attending online classes
- _____ I am financially responsible for my own health care costs
- _____ I have children and am financially responsible for childcare expenses

I attest that all information is true and accurate, and I am requesting a one-time Emergency Financial Aid Grant to help cover the cost of expenses incurred due to the Coronavirus pandemic. I understand that I will be unable to revise this request after submitting it, and I understand that the administration of my school will determine my eligibility for grant monies based on my responses to the questions above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Administration Use Only

Bergin Admin: _____ Date: _____ Student's Eligibility Amount: \$ _____



BERGIN UNIVERSITY of **CANINE STUDIES**

August 11, 2020

«Name»

«Address1»

«Address2»

RE: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) - Student Emergency Financial Aid Grant

Dear «Nickname»,

Bergin University of Canine Studies is pleased to enclose a check in the amount of «Grant_». This check is an emergency financial aid grant from the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). You have received this grant based on your completion of the *Emergency Financial Aid Grant to Students* application, including your attestation that you have incurred expenses due to disruptions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. The University also verified your eligibility through information received through your completed FAFSA.

Instructions on the use of your grant award:

Your emergency financial aid grant can be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus, including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as:

- Food
- Housing
- Course materials
- Technology associated with attending online classes
- Health care
- Childcare

If you have any questions, please contact me via email Denise@berginu.edu or call the school phone at 707-545-3647.

Sincerely,

Denise Gregersen
Chief Operating Officer

Enclosure