Salisbury University (SU) acknowledges that UMGC signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement on April 13, 2020 and assures that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18804(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Effective July 17, 2020, UMGC granted to SU a portion of its student emergency financial aid grant allotment of CARES Act funding to enable SU to provide additional emergency financial assistance to SU’s students who have been impacted by disruptions in campus operations due to the coronavirus crisis.

Of the total amount of funds UMGC received from the Department ($2.6 million) pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, UMGC has agreed to provide SU up to $262,641.

The total cumulative UMGC CARES Grants distributed by SU to students under Section 18004(a)(1) is $246,999 through December 31, 2020, which supported 593 students.

Salisbury University Eligibility and Award Determinations

To satisfy the requirements of Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Salisbury University identified students eligible for funding as those having a current FAFSA on file with the university (for more information see: CARES Emergency Student Grant). In spring 2020, SU had 5349 eligible students. Per Secretary Betsy DeVos’ guidance, our intent was to provide emergency relief to the students who exhibited the greatest need. We considered students with an Estimated Family Contribution of $30,000 or less. Using the above criteria, we identified 4,050 students for immediate emergency aid.

The emergency financial aid was to reimburse expenses that students incurred due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the implementation of fully online, remote instruction. We recognize that students had to travel back and forth to campus due to spring break and the order to vacate their student housing. We also recognize that students incurred expenses related to technology as a result of transitioning to an online instruction environment. As such, the following expenses were reimbursed:

- Eligible in-state students received $150 for travel expenses.
- Eligible out-of-state students received $250 for travel expenses.
- All eligible students received $300 for technology expenses (internet and software requirements, web cams, etc.)

The students were notified by e-mail of their refund. Additional announcements were made via social media, and the Salisbury University Financial Aid Office website.

The $262,461 from UMGC for direct student support has been allocated for SU Emergency Aid applications. Students meeting enrollment, U.S. citizenship and satisfactory academic progress requirements who are Title IV eligible and have incurred an economic hardship or expenses due to the disruption of campus activities directly related to COVID-19 may apply for reimbursement through this fund. All students will be notified of the additional funds via a campus-wide
announcement. Students may apply through an online scholarship system. Awards will made up to $1,000 per student, with exceptions possible on a case-by-case basis.

The entire amount of CARES funding for student aid was distributed to students in need in the form of blanket distributions to eligible students, by semester, to cover travel and technology needs, or by awards based on an application and demonstrated financial need directly the result of campus disruptions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. SU determined that 7547 students were “Title IV Eligible” between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Those students had either: 1) had a non-rejected FAFSA for 19-20 and were degree seeking w/ enrollment in spring 2020 or summer 2020 or 2) had a non-rejected FAFSA for 20-21 and were degree seeking w/ enrollment in fall 2020. In total SU awarded funds to 5570 students from April 2020 – December 2020, using both direct funding from the US Department of Education and the passed-through funding from UMGC.

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