



UNIVERSITY OF  
ST. THOMAS  
HOUSTON

# CARES ACT FUNDING

Per the guidelines and regulations of the US Department of Education, the University of St. Thomas acknowledges that this institution signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, 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.

**Federal grant award amount:** Sections 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020), authorized the Secretary of Education to allocate formula grant funds in the amount of \$992,236 to the University of St. Thomas to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**Dollar amount of funds distributed and number of students receiving support:** As of **June 26, 2020**, a total of **\$561,702** has been distributed. As of **June 26, 2020**, **\$316,103** to a total of 330 students enrolled in the spring 2020 semester and **\$245,599** to a total of 169 students in the summer 2020 semester have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. These figures will be updated regularly in accordance with the US Department of Education's requirement that institutions provide a public report every 45 days.

**Special Note:** Although the U. S. Department of Education requests the estimated total number of students at the 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, they recognize the immediate challenge. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV is one institutions have no capacity to report on because no student is required to file a FAFSA. Therefore, like other institutions of higher education, the University of St. Thomas has no way of knowing how many students on our campus are eligible to participate.

## **Emergency Financial Aid Grants are distributed by the institution based on the following methods:**

Students complete an application online. There is a five person committee reviewing the applications. Once an application has at least three reviews, the Dean of Scholarships and Financial aid can make the award. She determines if the student is eligible for CARES Act funding. The funds are disbursed to the student account, and refunded to the student. No CARES funds are kept on the student account.

**The following method is used to determine which students receive grants and how much they receive under Section 18004(a)(1):** Students may receive between \$250 and \$6,345. **The following method is used to determine which students receive grants and how much they receive under Section 18004 (a)(1):** Each reviewer can rate a student up to 20 points 920 points representing the neediest applicants). The Dean of Scholarships and Financial Aid averages those ratings from at least three reviewers. Typically, students with average scores of 15-20 were awarded between \$500 and \$2,500.

**Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:** All students interested in funding are directed to complete the application found at <https://stthom.academicworks.com/opportunities/1661>. Students should apply online, in the same process used by students to apply for scholarships. There is an announcement about the application, and the link, sent each week in the email sent out by the Office of Student Affairs.