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**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations ACT: CRRSA** **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students** March 17, 2021

*SUMMARY: Proposal for Distribution of Funds*

Kean is being awarded $6,754,570 in Financial Aid Grant funding for direct student aid from the Department of Education as a result of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act). Kean also has an unexpended balance (student portion) of CARES Act funds of $17,470. Under the new law, institutions with unexpended (as of December 27, 2020) Student Aid Portion CARES Act funds may use those funds to provide financial aid grants in the same way they are allowed to use their Student Aid Portion funds under the CRRSAA, including by providing such grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. Therefore, the total student aid port that can be awarded under CRRSA Act at Kean is $6,772,040. Under the new law, Kean must make financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education), which may be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care. Kean must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants in order to receive a financial aid grant. Kean plans to award and disburse the funds in two separate processes. For both processes, the award amount is one time disbursement of $900 per student. All funds must be distributed by December 27, 2021.

*Process One:*

* Kean will select students to be awarded CRRSA grants. The following are the selection criteria:
  + Enrolled Students for the semester which starts after December 27, 2020
  + Full-time and Part-time
  + Undergraduate and Graduate
  + Completed 2020-2021 FAFSA
  + U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen *(International, DACA and undocumented students are ineligible)[[1]](#footnote-1)*
  + Family annual gross income (AGI) is $65,000[[2]](#footnote-2) or less, Or Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is less than or equal to 1500
  + For continuing students, Financial Aid SAP status (Satisfactory Academic Progress) in the awarding term is Satisfactory, Warning, Probation or Academic Plan.

*We estimate around 6555 students will be awarded under this process with allocating $5,899,500 which consists of 87% of the funding. University reserves the right to change the percentages of the allocation.*

*Process Two:* Application

Students who weren’t selected under Process One can apply for CRRSA grants by filling out an application. Students are limited to one CRRSA grant. The application will be posted online after Process One is completed. The purpose of Process Two is:

1. To identify eligible students who weren’t selected under Process One due to technical issues;
2. To identify eligible students who didn’t file FAFSA, but met the family income criteria;
3. To identify students whose family income level is over the threshold, but can demonstrate the need for the funds.

*Propose allocating $872,540 which consists of 13% of the funding. University reserves the right to change the percentages of the allocation*

*Application Process for Process Two:*

Each student will answer a series of questions designed to assess their need for the grant. Creation of an electronic application to capture the following:

* + - Name
    - Kean ID#
    - Phone/Email
    - Citizenship (student is required to submit the proof of their US citizen or eligible noncitizen status)
    - What is your most recent Satisfactory Academic Progress Status?
    - Have you been awarded CRRSA?
    - Annual Family Income (If this number is less than or equal to $65,000, the rest of questions can be skipped)
    - Students would select from the following categories to advise how they’ve been affected by COVID-19:
      * Loss of Employment (job loss or decrease in work hours)
      * Childcare costs (for independent students)
      * Food Insecurity
      * Healthcare (including mental health care)
      * Housing Security
      * Course Material and Technology
    - Student can only submit one application for funding, subsequent applications will not be considered.
    - Proposed application **deadline date: April 30, 2021**. Applications will be reviewed and processed in the order in which they are received by staff from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services (OFA), under the supervision of the director.

*Student Authorization to Apply CRRSA to Student Accounts*

ED guidance allows institutions to apply CRRSA grants to student accounts, with student authorization. To streamline this process, we plan to administer the awarding the following way:

1. Students under Process One will be awarded award code CRRSA (direct student awards). This award code will bypass AR balances.
2. An email award notification with the link of *Student Authorization to Apply CRRSA to Student Accounts* will be sent to the students. A report showing students who checked Yes on the authorization page will be generated and sent to the OFA daily.
3. For students who checked Yes on the authorization, the OFA will cancel their CRRSA award and re-award them the same amount under award code CRRST, which will be applied against AR balances.

1. As of this day February 16, 2021, international, DACA and undocumented students are ineligible for CRRSA. If the law changes later to make international, DACA and undocumented students eligible, they can be administered under Process Two, and the Citizenship question can be skipped. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. $65,000 is the low-income threshold determined by the State in the new Garden State Guarantee plan [↑](#footnote-ref-2)