Illinois CARES Act Initial Fund Distribution for Higher Education Institutions

Illinois higher education institutions will receive approximately $429.7 million in funding under the CARES Act to help address the financial impact of COVID-19. Half of this funding, $214.9 million, has been released to help provide assistance to students. This is part of the $13.953 billion provided for higher education under the CARES Act, section 18004.

- This initial funding announcement is tied to the 90% of funding under Section 18004 of the CARES Act for all schools serving students receiving Pell funds for low income students.
- The calculations are based on three factors:
  - 75% of funds are based on the full-time equivalent number of Pell eligible students.
  - 25% of funds are based on the full-time equivalent number of non-Pell eligible students.
  - For both groups, students who are studying completely through distance learning are subtracted from the totals.
- Schools must use at least 50% of their total funds to provide cash supports for students.
- The initial release of funds is intended to cover the student costs portion of the funding.
- No timetable has been announced for the remaining 50% of funding, which can be used to cover COVID-19 related expenses experienced by schools, and no guidelines have yet been issued as to how schools will be allowed to use those funds.
- The Department of Education provided a single, national allocation to for-profit schools with a national footprint. To approximate the portion for Illinois, we used estimates made initially by the American Council on Education.
- In addition to the initial round of funding, 7.5% of Section 18004 funds are to go to support Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and 2.5% is set aside for particularly hard-hit institutions. There has not yet been any official guidance on eligibility for these programs or what funds can be used for.
- Any funding schools receive under the MSI and hard-hit schools’ programs will be in addition to the funding that has already been announced.
- A list of the Illinois schools that qualify as an MSI, and the amount of funds they are receiving from the main program, is attached. This list was drawn from a compilation maintained by the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education. It does not necessarily represent the schools which will receive funding under this program from the Department of Education.