



UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT CAYEY

Chancellor's Office

University of Puerto Rico at Cayey – CARES Act Report Relief Support for UPR Cayey Students Award No.: P425E200388

Final Report as of: December 31, 2020

Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), requires institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit a report to the Secretary of the Department of Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide 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, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

Each institution applying for HEERF funds must comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and submit an initial report (the “30-day Fund Report”) to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution’s Certification and Agreement to the Department and post the information listed below on the institution’s primary website. Accordingly, the following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1). New instructions require institutions to submit quarterly reports.

The following information provides public disclosure and ensure compliance with the requirements of the US Department of Education related to the CARES Act, enacted by President Trump on March 27, 2020. The University of Puerto Rico at Cayey (UPR Cayey) submits its final report for the seven criteria requested and listed below as of December 31, 2020:

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department 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. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department 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.

The University of Puerto Rico at Cayey is participating of the funds provided by the CARES Act. We signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement

and the assurance that we intend to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

UPR Cayey was granted a total of \$5,738,057 under Section 18004 (a) (1) of the CARES Act. At least 50% of that amount, \$2,869,029 is available to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

3. 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 submission.

As of December 31, 2020, UPR Cayey has distributed \$2,869,021.92 of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to eligible students.

4. 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.

UPR Cayey estimated that 2,601 students were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in the 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). However, after all students were qualified following the requirements, a total of 2,428 students qualified for the emergency financial aid.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

As of December 31, 2020, 2,428 qualified students received the Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004 (a)(1) of CARES Act.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Initially, UPR Cayey estimated that 2,601 students were eligible to participate under this program and determined that all eligible students would receive an emergency financial aid of \$1,103.04. ($\$2,869,029/2,601$). After all students were qualified following the requirements a total of 2,428 students qualified for the financial aid, resulting in an undistributed balance of \$190,847.88. This amount was distributed among the 2,428 qualified students assisting them with an additional amount of \$78.60 for each student. The new total financial aid the students received was \$1,181.64.

The following are the guidelines to determine eligibility of students for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) emergency assistance provided by CARES Act:

The requirements to determine eligibility under the guidelines issued by the Federal Department of Education are:

- Although it is not a requirement to have completed the FAFSA, we recommend students to fill it out because it is the most practicable way to demonstrate student's eligibility to Title IV federal student aid programs and meets all general student eligibility criteria in Section 484 of the HEA. Otherwise, students will need to prove eligibility through documentation detailed below in the eligibility criteria table.
 - Be a United States citizen or national, be a permanent resident, or belong to an eligible noncitizen category (Excludes foreign students with a study Visa).
 - Have a valid Social Security number.
 - Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent
 - Be registered in the Selective Service (Male students).
 - Have no debt from an overpayment (refund) in Title IV grants.
 - Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
 - Have returned any fraudulently obtained Title IV funds, if the student is convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges.
 - Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits
 - Have repaid any amount of the Title IV loan overpayments that exceeds the aggregates limits, if the overpayment is inadvertently obtained.
 - File with the Department of Education as part of the original financial aid application process, a certification (Statement of Educational Purpose) that includes:
 - A statement of educational purpose
 - Student's Social Security Number (SSN)
 - Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale.
7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Students who have not completed the FAFSA were granted until Friday, May 23, to fill it out so the Emergency Financial Aid disbursement can be processed. After this date, students who did not complete the FAFSA were granted until Friday, July 17, to submit all required documentation to validate eligibility in order to process the Emergency Financial Aid payment.

The University of Puerto Rico at Cayey provides instructions and guidance to all its students through emails and a website created for this purpose (<https://cayey.upr.edu/ley-cares-act-ayuda-heerf/>). The website includes updated information with questions and answers, links to eligibility requirements, recipient's funding certifications and agreement, reports to agency, and other important information. Through email, we sent information regarding the following:

eligibility requirements, how to apply, reminders, and payment date announcements. Student's questions were answered by e-mails, phone calls to the Economic Aid Office and Chancellor's Office, and through the Help Desk (link located on the institution's website and currently improved as APOYO AL ESTUDIANTE Y EDUCACION A DISTANCIA (Student Support and Distance Education).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the following links: UPR Cayey, Ave. Antonio R. Barceló #205 Cayey, PR; 787-738-2161; Directorio Telefónico; UPR; Mi Portal; Diálogo; Exalumnos; Editorial UPR; Búsqueda; and Entrar. Below this is the UPR CAYEY logo and a horizontal menu with links: Sobre la UPR Cayey, Admisiones, Academia, Estudiantes, Investigación, Biblioteca, and Servicios en Línea. The main content area features a large banner with a photograph of the campus and text: "APOYO AL ESTUDIANTE Y EDUCACIÓN A DISTANCIA" and "APOYO A LA FACULTAD Y EDUCACIÓN A DISTANCIA". Below the banner is a green section titled "UPR CAYEY - TURNOS VIRTUALES" with the URL "uprcayey.tuserviopr.com". This section contains several service tiles: "MiUPRCAYEY pago de matrícula", "Acceso al Correo Electrónico", "COVID-19", and "Moodle Online". Below these are logos for "MSCHE MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION", "¿QUÉ ES TÍTULO IX? Presión para ir a la información", and "CARES Act". A row of social media icons includes PSU, a search icon, a calendar icon, a speaker icon, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. At the bottom, there are three image tiles: "Departamentos Académicos", "Biblioteca Victor M. Pons Gil", and "Museo Dr. Pío López". On the right side, there are three vertical buttons: "Boletines Seguridad", "Oficina del Rector", and "Políticas Institucionales".