



CARES Act Initial Report (the “30 Day Fund Report”)

Prepared as per guidance from Electronic Announcement.

Posted Date: May 06, 2020

Author: Office of Postsecondary Education

Subject: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Item 1

Acknowledgement under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, hereby acknowledges that our institution signed and returned to the Department of Education on **April 20, 2020**, the Certification and Agreement required under the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

In addition, hereby AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, assures 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.

President: Juan Carlos Nazario

President's Signature _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JCN", is written over a horizontal line.

May 20, 2020

Item 2

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, received a total amount **\$930,533.00** of funds from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Item 3

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO has distributed a total amount of **\$86,750.00** from the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission. These funds were requested for drawdown through G5 May 18, 2020. In addition, it is currently working on a second payroll for the sum of \$380,564.00 which is planned to be completed by May 29, 2020.

- *Three weeks ago, AUPR submitted five questions about qualification and disbursements issues and, to this day [May 20] we have not received answers from the CARES Office. As soon as this happens, additional Title IV qualified students will be benefited based on the response to the questions. The CARES Q & A section did not allow us to find answers to the questions we submitted. [See Attachment 1 on page 14 of this Report.]*

Item 4

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, the estimated total number of students 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 amounts to **879** students.

Item 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 May 20, 2020 are **134** students. By May 29, 2020, AUPR plans to assist an additional **554** students with the Emergency Financial Aid Grant corresponding to their qualified profile. The remaining students will have received their Emergency Financial Aid Grant **by June 19, 2020**.

The AUPR’s Committee for Student Support and CARES Fund Oversight was established to review the situation of the students that did not receive CARES grants in this first round and those that communicate extraordinary situations that merit additional support.

Item 6 – 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.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO established the following guidelines to determine eligibility of its students for the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)* emergency assistance provided by the CARES Act:

- Students must be actively enrolled in face-to-face program, conducive to complete an academic degree or certificate, during the academic terms affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and thus the study program was interrupted by the emergency. Any student that did not fit into this definition were deemed not eligible to receive the emergency aid.
- Students have filed or may file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) were deemed eligible. As an alternative to student’s who under special conditions cannot complete a FAFSA, may demonstrate eligibility by completing an application in which the student attests under the penalty of perjury to meeting the requirements of Section 484 of the HEA.
- Students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, must comply with the following eligibility criteria among others:
 - Have a valid Social Security number
 - Be a citizen or national of the United States, a permanent resident, or belong to an eligible noncitizen category to receive the grant
 - Not be enrolled in an elementary or high school and I have a valid high school diploma or its recognized equivalent
 - Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Have no debt accrued from an overpayment (refund) of Title IV financial aid
 - Not be in default on a Title IV loan
 - May have not obtained or has repaid any Title IV aid obtained through fraud, proven in a legal proceeding brought against the student that resulted from a guilty verdict rendered by a jury plea or a guilty plea
 - May have not received Title IV program loans in excess of the annual or aggregate limits provided by law and applicable regulations through fraud
 - Must have repaid any amount of a Title IV program loan that has exceeded the annual or aggregate limit received by miscalculation
 - Be registered in the Selective Service (*Male students only 18 – 25 years of age*)
 - May have not been convicted of possession or distribution of drugs in the federal or state jurisdictions

As the president’s letter [see on page 7 below] indicates, the University established a two-criteria scheme with subcategories within each major category. The key variable was whether students had been classified by FAFSA’s EFC as either **EFC=0** or an **EFC>0**. Within those two groups, the final criteria were the Unmet Need or “Uneed” obtained by subtracting the EFC from the Cost of Attendance and the assigned financial aid. The remaining sum was the amount that students still needed to cover their costs. The Uneed was clustered in four categories:

Unneed => that \$10,000.00; Unneed between \$9,999.00-\$8,000.00; Unneed between \$7,999.00-\$6,000.00 and Unneed between \$5,999.00 and \$1.00. The CARES grant assigned was assigned based on those characteristics. The president’s communication described more detail.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO students’ HEERF emergency assistance distributer or being distributed at this time, amounts to **\$678.00** per student.

Item 7 – Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Background:

After COVID-19 cases were identified in Puerto Rico, AUPR established a section in its portal [<https://aupr.edu>] about COVID-19 with links to prevention, symptoms, and other relevant information. Then, in Puerto Rico, the governor declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 and on Sunday, March 15, 2020, a country-wide lockdown and curfew were declared, except for critical security and health -related personnel and for individuals only to seek health care, food or medications.

Since then, the lockdown has been maintained and the universities have been closed. The only work-related exception established was that on March 30, 2020, up to five staff members that ran payrolls could go to their offices and complete the corresponding processes. After that, this Monday, May 18, 2020, the new Executive Order issued by the governor allowed only key executive officers to work at the universities.

Because the lockdown occurred unexpectedly and, on a Sunday, most of our personnel [except faculty that worked with hybrid/blended course components that use the course-management Moodle platform] were unequipped to work from a distance. Thus, most non-teaching activities came to a halt. Only a few office heads and top executives had the protocols to enter the information system of the University.

As indicated, on March 30, 2020 only college officers working with the payroll could work at their offices. At that time, more staff was able to get equipment and protocols to work from home. Thus, the process to address all the elements to work with the analysis of student profiles, qualifications, etc. for receiving the CARES Funds was delayed and has been slower than we had wanted. In addition, the AUPR MIS is old and not integrated and we lack a CRM system and other means to easily communicate with our students other than through emails and social networks. [To address these problems, AUPR submitted a new Title V request and we look forward to its results.]

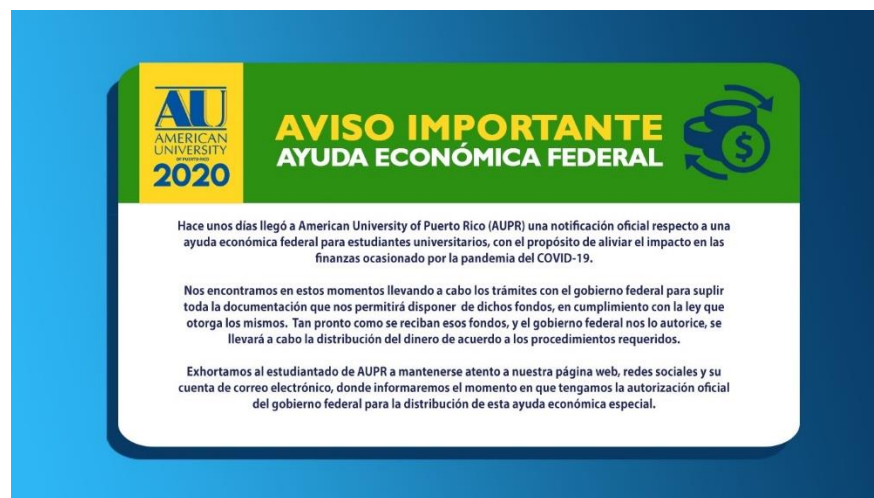
Steps to implement CARES

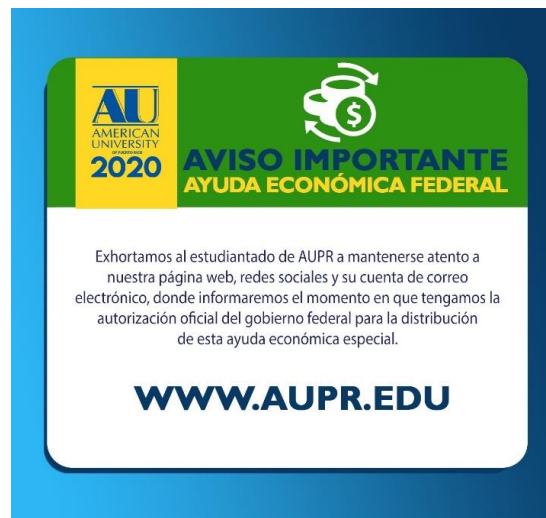
The following section describes our communication steps to work with the CARES legislation, regulations and information provided to guide us is determining how to assign funds, under what circumstances and for how long can we provide this assistance to active students.

As indicated above, AUPR maintains a COVID-19 related section in our website [<https://aupr.edu>] and this week, since we have key MIS Office staff at the campus, AUPR established a new email address apoyo.cares@aupr.edu where students that have not received CARES support, can submit their questions and seek guidance from the University staff. There may be many reasons for students not having received the CARES support, including those whose cases that will be impacted by the answers we receive to the five questions we submitted to HEERF].

1. Between April 11 and May 20, 2020 we placed information in the social networks [Facebook and Instagram] and in the AUPR portal [<https://aupr.edu>]. We have also sent direct emails to students notifying them of CARES grant’s-related issues.

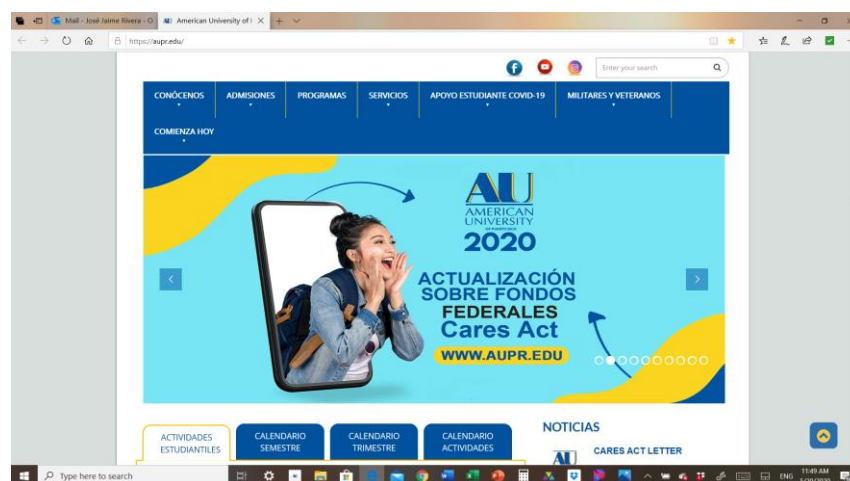
These are examples of the notifications about the CARES funding placed on both, AUPR web page and in social media.





In the meantime, the University completed the Certification and Agreement Application for Federal assistance SF-424 in April 20, 2020 and on April 21, 2020, the Agency Tracking Number was assigned. On April 26, 2020 AUPR an email by njeri.clark@ed.gov was received notifying that our CARES Application was selected for funding. On Monday, April 26, 2020, the GAN was accessed. The GAN defined the Budget Period as 4/25/2020-4/24/2021. As the personnel needed to analyze the student population was provided with technology to work from home [given the quarantine imposed by the Puerto Rico government, the identification of qualified cases began. At the same time, institutional leaders examined the institutional criteria to determine the amount of the grants to the Title-IV-qualified students and the alternate ways to classify students to assign them the grants.

An “all student” email was distributed on May 9, 2020 by our president, Juan Carlos Nazario, providing additional information on the funds assigned for qualified students, the procedures and criteria established to assign the CARES Emergency Financial Aid Grants and the amount each student will receive based on the established institutional criteria. The link to the letter was also placed in the AUPR website and sent to the social media links:



This communication sent to all students and staff is printed below:

Presidente AUPR

Sat 5/9/2020 8:38 AM

- GRUPO-BAYAMON;
- GRUPO-MANATI;
- GRUPO-PRESIDENCIA

CC: José Jaime Rivera

Estimados estudiantes:

En este momento tan difícil, mis primeras palabras van dirigidas a ustedes y sus seres queridos, con la esperanza de que se encuentren bien de salud y seguros en sus hogares. En American University of Puerto Rico (AUPR) elevamos nuestras oraciones para pedir por cada uno de ustedes y como comunidad, nos mantenemos solidarios y prestos a apoyarlos en estos momentos tan complicados.

Como universidad innovadora y desde el 2015, hemos estado desarrollando materiales educativos para nuestros cursos utilizando la plataforma Moodle. Luego de los huracanes Irma y María aceleramos este proceso y gracias a esta iniciativa, ustedes han podido continuar sus estudios. En estos meses seguimos trabajando para que su experiencia a distancia sea cada día mejor.

Según informamos en la página de la Universidad [www.aupr.edu], el Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos, en cumplimiento con la Ley CARES, asignó \$930,533 para apoyar a los **estudiantes activos que cualifiquen** según los criterios federales para ayudarlos a cubrir gastos producto del cambio de una educación presencial a una en línea y los gastos extraordinarios generados por la pandemia del Covid-19. Estos fondos tienen el objetivo de que los estudiantes continúen sus estudios con este apoyo adicional que **debe ser usados exclusivamente** para cubrir gastos en materiales de clase, tecnología, alimentos, vivienda, cuidado de la salud y cuidado de niños.

La ley CARES establece que, para recibir los fondos, el estudiante **tiene que estar matriculado y cualificar para recibir ayudas económicas bajo el Título IV** de la Ley de Educación Superior [beca Pell, préstamo, estudio y trabajo, entre otras]. Con el fin de otorgar estas ayudas dando prioridad a los estudiantes con mayor necesidad, según establece la Ley CARES, AUPR utilizará los criterios que se emplean para asignarles las ayudas económicas bajo Título IV. Estos son el EFC ("Expected Family Contribution") o contribución familiar a los gastos de estudio y las necesidades no cubiertas por las ayudas otorgadas ("Unmet Need / Uneed"). Esta información aparece en sus documentos de Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) que llenaste y recibiste. Al final de esta comunicación, te explico cada uno de estos dos criterios en más detalle.

Por lo tanto, la Universidad clasificó a cada uno de ustedes que reciben o cualifican para ayudas de Título IV según su FAFSA, entre los que tienen un **EFC igual a cero** y los que tienen un **EFC mayor a cero**. Cada uno de estos dos grupos fue evaluado en cuanto al costo de estudiar [COA] definido por Título IV, y se identificó la cantidad de dinero que las ayudas recibidas y la contribución familiar asignada [EFC] no cubrieron. Las ayudas irán desde un mínimo de \$500.00 hasta un máximo de \$800.00. No habrá diferencia en los fondos asignados entre estudiantes a tiempo completo o tiempo parcial. A los estudiantes cuyo "Unmet Need / Uneed" sea menos de \$500.00, se les asignará la cantidad sin atender.

Una vez el Departamento de Educación Federal culmine el proceso que requiere la transferencia de fondos a la Universidad (entendemos que tomará hasta dos semanas), los que tengan depósito directo, recibirán las ayudas de CARES que se les asignen en la cuenta bancaria que haya registrado para este propósito. Los que no tengan depósito

directo, recibirán sus ayudas mediante un cheque que será enviado por correo a la dirección en la que recibe correspondencia de la Universidad. Estos estudiantes recibirán próximamente un mensaje para que validen su dirección postal y teléfono. Cada uno recibirá esta información en el correo electrónico que informaste a la universidad. A continuación, te informo la forma en que asignaremos los fondos CARES.

Tabla para la asignación de las ayudas otorgadas bajo la ley CARES en

EFC/ contribución familiar requerida	“Unmet Need”/ Uneed			
	Necesidad no cubierta por las ayudas otorgadas			
Criterio del EFC	Uneed>\$10,000.	\$9,999. - \$8,000.	\$7,999. - \$6,000.	\$5,599. - \$1,000. *
EFC = 0	\$800.	\$700	\$600	\$500
EFC 1 - en adelante	\$750	\$650	\$550	\$500

*Los estudiantes con necesidad no cubierta de menos de \$500.00 recibirán la cantidad que define su necesidad sin atender.

El correo electrónico que se les enviará indicará la ayuda asignada a cada estudiante y otra información requerida. Esta semana, la Coordinadora de Asistencia Económica, Nelly Duarte, ha estado enviando a los estudiantes activos en semestre (20/2S) y trimestre (20/3T) **que no han llenado la FAFSA**, un mensaje de correo electrónico con la información necesaria para cumplimentar dicho formulario. Si lo cumplimentan y recibimos la respuesta del Departamento de Educación Federal, podremos determinar si cualifican para los fondos CARES.

Recuerden que, aunque no cualifiquen para la beca Pell, pueden cualificar para préstamo u otras ayudas, aunque no las utilicen. Recuerden también, que, si ustedes o sus encargados/padres han perdido ingresos por la crisis causada por el COVID-19, pueden solicitar una revisión en la FAFSA con los nuevos datos de su situación económica. Es importante que, si hacen trámites con la FAFSA, deben identificar el número que identifica a AUPR [#011941 para los estudiantes de Bayamón y el #015281 para los de Manatí.] De esta forma, se aseguran de que los datos lleguen a la Universidad y podamos hacer el análisis de sus casos rápidamente.

Próximamente, recibirán un cuestionario donde identificaremos la magnitud de los problemas creados por la pandemia tanto para ustedes como para su familia inmediata. Los datos que obtengamos se usarán en forma agregada para solicitar otras ayudas económicas para ustedes. Por favor, no dejen de completar dicho cuestionario cuando lo reciban la semana próxima y devuélvanlo siguiendo las instrucciones de éste.

Por favor, continúen cuidándose, sigan las normas de protección recomendadas y mantengan el distanciamiento físico.

Con mis deseos de salud y paz,

Juan C. Nazario Torres

Presidente

Definiciones:

1. **EFC: “Expected Family Contribution”** = cuando llenas la FAFSA con la información que solicita dicho documento, el programado del Departamento de Educación federal calcula cuál es la cantidad de dinero que

tú o tus padres o encargados deben aportar a los gastos de tus estudios universitarios. Este es el número que aparece en tu FAFSA cuando te la devuelven. Este número puede ser \$0.00 cuando no tienen que aportar a tus gastos. De lo contrario tendrá un número mayor de cero que puede llegar cifras en miles. Si hay un número mayor que cero, esa es la cantidad que se supone que aportes a tus costos **(COA)**.

2. **"Cost of Attendance" o COA:** incluye tus costos de matrícula y otras partidas [materiales, libros, transportación, etc.] que están definidos por el Departamento de Educación federal en unas tablas que deben usar las Oficinas de Asistencia Económica.
3. **"Unmet Need" / Uneed o Necesidad no cubierta por las ayudas otorgadas:** Una vez tu FAFSA llega a la Oficina de Asistencia Económica de AUPR, ellos le añaden los costos de estudio o COA. A estos costos de estudio [COA] se les resta tu EFC y, si en número es positivo, se te asignan las ayudas económicas federales y estatales para las que calificaste. Lo que queda sin ayuda es la necesidad no atendida o **"Unmet Need"**.

That same day, the Financial Aid Office Coordinator, Nelly Duarte, sent an email to those students that had not filed a FAFSA form, inviting them to complete the form in case they qualified for Title IV support and could then, benefit from the CARES grant. See email below:

Beca Federal Pell 2019-2020 y fondos ayuda CARES ACT

Nelly Duarte <duarten@aupr.edu>

Wed 5/6/2020 3:14 PM

To: STUDENT XXXXXX <yyyyyyyyyyy@aupr.edu>

Cc: José Jaime Rivera <josejriversa@aupr.edu>

4 attachments (1 MB)

hoja firma fafsa 2019-2020.pdf; DOC_REQUERIDOS_19-20.doc; Informacion Necesaria para llenar Beca Estudiantes Dep 19-20.doc; Informacion Necesaria para llenar la Beca Federal Pell Est Ind 19-20.doc;
Buenas tardes XXXXXXXXX:

Recibe nuestros deseos de salud y paz para ti y tus seres queridos. En American University of Puerto Rico, elevamos nuestras oraciones para pedir por cada uno de ustedes y como comunidad, nos mantenemos solidarios y prestos a apoyarte en estos momentos tan difíciles de emergencia mundial ante la pandemia COVID 19.

Le informo que el Departamento de Educación Federal nos asignó unos fondos para apoyar a los estudiantes cualificados y matriculados en este momento. No obstante, para cualificar para esta ayuda, es importante verificar que cualificas para los fondos de Título IV. Verificando su expediente, **aún no ha procesado la Solicitud Gratuita de Ayudas Económicas Federales** (Beca Federal Pell) ; es por esto , aunque no cualifiques para la Beca Pell (ya sea por sus ingresos o sea estudiante de maestría), es importante que la llenes electrónicamente de modo que podamos cualificarte para estas nuevas ayudas bajo las leyes de emergencia por el COVID-19.

Adjunto documentos necesarios para llenar la Beca Federal Pell para que los complete y poder asistirle en este proceso. Es importante que me los envíe por correo electrónico ya completados, junto con la evidencia de ingresos del hogar del año 2017.

Cualquier duda o pregunta, puede comunicarse al 787-621-2835 ext 3301, 787-620-2040 ext 2301 ó enviar un correo electrónico a duarten@aupr.edu

Agradeceremos su atención a este asunto.
Estamos para servirle.

Nelly M Duarte

Coordinadora Asistencia Económica

American University of Puerto Rico

787-621-2835 ext 3301

787-620-2040 ext 2301

duarten@aupr.edu

During the week of May 4-8, 2020, the University identified students that had direct deposit accounts. Next week, these students were analyzed to identify those that qualified for Title IV and based on the institutional criteria of EFC/UNEED a grant was assigned. The payroll was prepared and verified, and these funds were requested through G5. On May 19, following up on the May 9 communication, students that had registered direct deposit accounts at the University received their assigned grant in their bank accounts. Today, a follow up email was sent to all of them regarding their deposit and with additional information on the assignment process. See below:

19 de mayo de 2020

Estimado/a estudiante

El 9 de mayo de 2020, nuestro Presidente, Lic. Juan Carlos Nazario, te escribió para informarte sobre el proceso que se estableció para asignar los fondos que la Universidad recibió bajo la Ley CARES. Esta ley fue aprobada para dar ayudas a los estudiantes que cualifican para recibir ayudas de Título IV y que se vieron obligados a continuar sus estudios a distancia por la pandemia y tienen necesidades no atendidas por las ayudas recibidas. Estos fondos tienen el objetivo de que los estudiantes continúen sus estudios con este apoyo adicional que debe ser usados exclusivamente para cubrir gastos en materiales de clase, tecnología, alimentos, vivienda, cuidado de la salud y cuidado de niños.

En dicha comunicación te informamos que los estudiantes que tienen inscritas sus cuentas en bancos o cooperativas para recibir sus ayudas económicas serán los primeros en recibirlas. Según nuestros expedientes, tienes cuenta de depósito directo. Por tanto, procederemos a hacer la transferencia a tu cuenta de depósito directo de la ayuda que te corresponde en la sesión de clases en la que estas estudiando [segundo semestre 20/2S o en ambos trimestres 3T y 4T] de acuerdo con tu EFC y tu Necesidad No Atendida, conceptos que nuestro presidente explicó en su carta del 9 de mayo de 2020. La tabla que guía la distribución de ayudas es la siguiente:

EFC=0 y . . . Primera Asignación

Unneed=> \$10,000.00	\$800.00
Unneed \$9,999.00- \$8,000.00	\$700.00
Unneed \$7,999.00- \$6,000.00	\$600.00
Unneed \$5,999.00- \$1.00	\$500.00

EFC>0 y UNEED. . . Primera Asignación

Unneed => \$10,000.00	\$750.00
Unneed \$9,999.00- \$8,000.00	\$650.00
Unneed \$7,999.00- \$6,000.00	\$550.00
Unneed \$5,999.00- \$1.00	\$500.00

El viernes 15 de mayo de 2020 en la tarde recibimos notificación del Departamento de Educación federal de que los fondos estarían disponibles para retiro. El lunes 18 de mayo de 2020 el banco completó los trámites correspondientes a dicha cuenta de fondos CARES e inmediatamente solicitamos al Departamento de Educación federal que transfiriera los fondos de tu cuenta. En unas horas recibirás el depósito.

Estos fondos para ayudarlos mientras estudian a distancia están disponibles para los estudiantes mientras continúen estos estudios, por lo cual, según tus planes de estudio en verano o agosto, podrías cualificar para otras asignaciones de ayuda. Estamos a tus órdenes.

Que tú y tus seres queridos estén bien.

Nelly M Duarte

Coordinadora Asistencia Económica

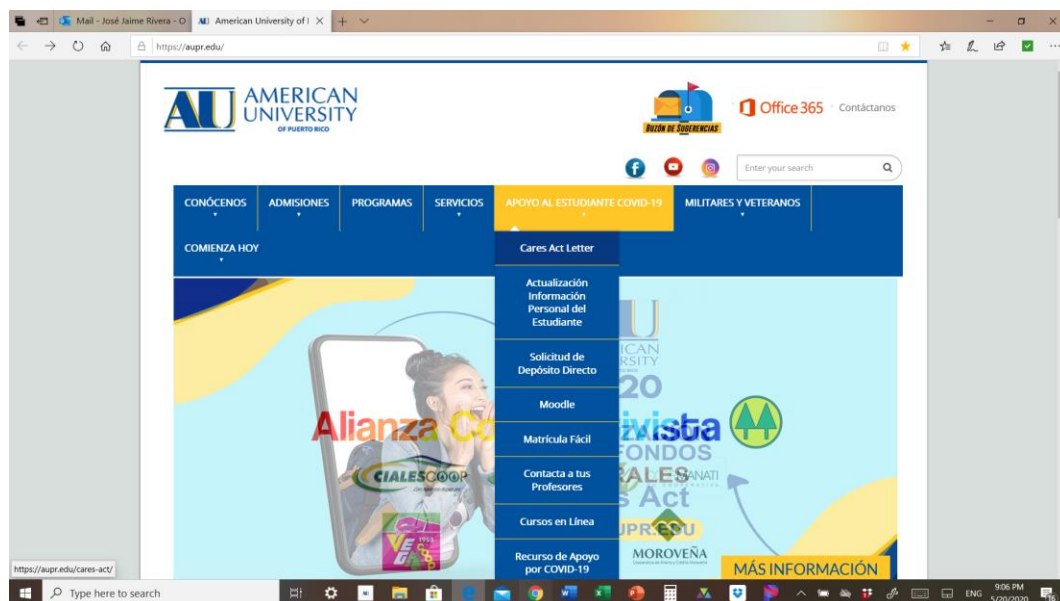
American University of Puerto Rico

787-621-2835 ext 3301

787-620-2040 ext 2301

duarten@aupr.edu

Today, all other initially pre-qualified students that did not have a registered were notified the steps they had to follow to receive their grants by either, submitting a direct deposit account or by validating the address where the checks will be mailed.



In this case, the AUPR web page was modified to include [as shown in the vertical blue drop] the links to update their mailing address for those that will receive their CARES grant using a check sent by mail and the second link for those that want to submit the information for direct deposit. As these forms arrive, payrolls will be developed and processed.

This is the image that was posted on the AUPR website to promote students to provide their direct deposit account or update their postal address.

Estudiantes Activos y Cualificados para Recibir Ayuda de Título IV

AU
AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF WASHINGTON
2020

El 19 de mayo de 2020, la Universidad tramitó las ayudas del fondo CARES a 134 estudiantes cualificados para recibir ayudas de Título IV que tienen cuentas de depósito directo inscritas en la Universidad.

El próximo grupo que recibirá las ayudas es el de los estudiantes que no tienen cuentas de depósito directo. Este grupo puede:

- a) Someter su información de depósito directo.**
- b) Validar su dirección a la que debe enviarse el cheque por correo regular.**

En un correo electrónico enviado a este grupo por nuestro presidente, se explica el proceso para acogerse a una de las dos opciones anteriormente mencionadas.

Tan pronto recibamos esta información, podremos preparar la nómina, solicitar los fondos al gobierno federal, emitir y enviar sus ayudas del fondo CARES. Esperamos la pronta atención de todos los estudiantes cualificados para esta ayuda (estudiantes cualificados por el formulario FAFSA, activos este semestre o durante los dos trimestres.)

This is essentially the same message that a second communication was issued by the president to all students that had not originally registered their direct deposit accounts. The letter is shown below:

Juan Carlos Nazario

XXXXXXXXXX

Thu 5/20/2020 9:54 AM

Cc: José Jaime Rivera

Estimada(o) estudiante:

El día de hoy, la Universidad asignó las ayudas del fondo CARES a 134 estudiantes con cuentas de depósito directo inscritas en nuestros archivos. El próximo grupo que recibirá las ayudas serán aquellos que no tienen cuentas de depósito directo y cuyos pagos deben ser enviados por correo. Como requisito indispensable para recibir la ayuda que se te adjudique, nos debes proveer toda la información que requerimos a continuación, según la alternativa de pago que prefieras:

1. Dirección postal a la que deseas que se te envíe el cheque correspondiente a la ayuda adjudicada. Es tu responsabilidad proveer la dirección correcta y completa a la que enviaremos el cheque.
2. Datos de la cuenta de Banco o Cooperativa en la que deseas que hagamos el depósito directo de la suma de dinero adjudicada. A saber:
 - A. Nombre de Estudiante
 - B. Número de estudiante
 - C. Nombre de Banco o Cooperativa
 - D. Número de Ruta o Tránsito
 - E. Número de Cuenta
 - F. Indicar si es cuenta de Ahorro o Cheques

Esta información la debes proveer en respuesta(reply) a este correo electrónico para que podamos validar tu dirección e identidad.

Gracias,

Juan C. Nazario Torres, J. D.

President

American University of Puerto Rico

P. O. Box 2037

Bayamón, PR 00960-2037

(787) 620-2040, Ext. 1013

Fax (787) 785-7377

jcnazario@aupr.edu

Finally, as this first group receives the first round of CARES grants’ support, the second round of assistance is being organized to address those cases that need a reconsideration given that they face extraordinary circumstances, have attained Title IV qualification, qualify based on the answers to the questions submitted to the HEERF office on April 27, 2020 and others. For this purpose, on May 11, 2020, AUPR’s president established the AUPR’s Committee for Student Support and CARES Fund Oversight with the charge that they revise the cases of students who have not been assigned CARES Funds and may qualify and advise them on steps they need to take to revise their Title IV qualifications and other extraordinary circumstances.

Our next report to be submitted by July 10, 2020 [45 days after this first report] will elaborate on the results of these initiatives.

ATTACHMENT 1 Communication with HEERF’s Office with questions about CARES criteria

José Jaime Rivera
Mon 4/27/2020 1:37 AM
To: HEERF@ed.gov
Cc:
Juan Carlos Nazario; Jose Ramirez; Magda Cancel; Nelly Duarte

April 27, 2020

CARES Program Director
HEERF
U. S. Department of Education

Dear Program Director:

Following the invitation in your website
[<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>] for institutional officers to submit questions concerning the implementation of the CARES/HEERF program, and on behalf of our President, Juan Carlos Nazario, we are submitting some key background information and the questions we have identified. Your response will allow us to start allocating the CARES emergency financial aid grants assigned to our university to help qualified students cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Background:

March 13, 2020: President Trump declared a national emergency in order to access \$42 billion in existing funds to combat the coronavirus.

March 15, 2020: Puerto Rico government declared a quarantine that continues today and is expected to be extended through the first week of June, or beyond.

April 9, 2020: Secretary of Education message and letter to college and university presidents:
“What’s best for students is at the center of every decision we make.” “That’s why we prioritized getting funding out the door quickly to college students who need it most. We don’t want unmet financial needs due to the coronavirus to derail their learning.”

“I gave my team a charge as soon as the CARES Act was signed into law: get support to those most in need as quickly as possible. That starts with college students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet.”

Steps taken:

As a result of the Friday, March 13 declaration of national emergency and the quarantine declared by our governor on March 15, American University of Puerto Rico did not reopen Monday, March 16, 2020. To assure the continuity of the second semester and third quarter

sessions, AUPR started offering its courses and services to students through technological resources and has been able to maintain its academic calendar with minimal changes.

The institution’s evening program for working adults both undergraduate and graduate, operates on a quarter calendar with four sessions during the academic year. Given the institutional size, many courses required by the majors and specializations are offered once a year in previously planned quarter sessions. Thus, some students may be active in one quarter, skip a quarter and take courses in the next one. Others are readmitted or admitted starting in the quarter where the courses they need are offered.

Thanks to the CARES legislation, AUPR will be able to assist students who urgently need financial support to meet many of their educational [equipment, internet, materials] and personal needs [food, medications, child-care] unexpected needs that the CARES legislation explicitly recognized.

The current regulations as issued, including the Q&A sections of the <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html> website, provide key information but did not allow us to answer with certainty the following questions raised by students and staff:

1. A regular student enrolled in our campus-based program, studied in a previous quarter session during the fall 2019 months, was unable to be active in the third quarter, but enrolled for the April 2020’s fourth quarter where the courses needed were being offered. Can this student, qualified for Title IV, receive CARES assistance
2. Can AUPR students who were not active in the previous 2019-20 sessions, were readmitted to their academic majors to begin in the fourth quarter that started in April 2020, and are qualified for Title IV, receive CARES assistance?
3. Do new students admitted to our institution for the fourth quarter qualify for CARES support?
4. When the quarantine started, many students had started their registration process for the June 2020 summer session. Will continuing, readmitted and new students that enroll in the summer session, qualify for CARES funds to assist them in covering “*things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare.*” {De Vos April 9 letter.]
5. Students that currently qualify for CARES support also register for the August 2020 [fall] sessions. Will these students qualify to receive CARES support? Will continuing, readmitted and new enrollees qualify for CARES support in the fall 2020?

6. Can the CARES funds received for student grants be prorated between the current and near coming sessions [June summer and August/fall 2020 sessions] to which they have or will be registered/admitted?

As indicated before, AUPR is a traditional "brick & mortar" institution that does not offer on-line programs. Students that select AUPR seek our traditional modality and they know that when the pandemic is controlled, we will return to in-class courses. Continuing, returning and new enrollees were not expecting this quarantine to continue and must obtain resources to study on-line for the time being. Many have lost their jobs and have the time to advance their higher education. They also need support!

We appreciate your assistance in clarifying these questions so that we can assign the funds and meet the legislative and the Secretary's intent for an expeditious process of disbursements and student support.

Best regards,

Jose Jaime Rivera, Ph.D.
787-363-6873
CARES Project Coordinator
American University of Puerto Rico

c. Juan C. Nazario, Esq.
President

Jose A. Ramirez, Ed.D.
Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs

Magda Cancel, CPA
Vice-President for Administrative and Financial Affairs

Nelly Duarte
AUPR Student Financial Assistance Office Coordinator