Eastern Illinois University (EIU) has signed and returned the Certification for the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. EIU will use at least 50% of the CARES Act money to fund student grants.

EIU anticipates receiving $4,506,779 of CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief funding. $2,253,390 will be used for grants to students.

As of December 31, 2020, EIU has distributed $2,144,075 to students under 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

EIU estimates that approximately 3633 students were eligible to receive a CARES Act Phase I grant under Section 484 of Title IV. 3633 students received those grants. In Phase I, each eligible student received $30 per enrolled Spring semester credit hour as of May 12, 2020. This amounted to $1,457,430.

In Phase 2, students, that met the eligibility requirements, were permitted to apply for another grant based upon need created by the pandemic as it related to the disruption of campus operations, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care. Under Phase 2, EIU issued another 508 grants, totaling $332,940.

In Phase 3, all incoming Freshman received $400 to support online learning. These funds were distributed to the students on October 26, 2020. Under Phase 3, EIU distributed $341,600 to 854 eligible students.

And, finally, EIU identified 71 eligible students that were prohibited from working on campus due to the pandemic. Because of the disruption, we distributed $12,105 to these students to cover lost wages.

Students that are eligible for the grants are those that are degree seeking, eligible under Title IV as determined by the filing and acceptance of a 19/20 FAFSA and not enrolled in an online program.