On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

On May 29, 2020, Bellingham Technical College (BTC) received a HEERF - SIP award to defray expenses incurred, including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll, as well as grants to students for any component of the student’s cost of attendance, as defined under Section 472 of the HEA, including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The funding is meant to reimburse institutional costs under Section 18004 (A)(2) of the act.

1. BTC signed and returned the U.S. Department of Education’s Certification and Agreement for the SIP portion of HEERF funds on May 4, 2020. BTC received notification of grant award on May 29, 2020.

2. BTC received $89,455 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act in this award. The institutional use of the funds will be made in accordance to section 18004(c) of the Act.

3. BTC has distributed no funds to defray expenses as of August 13, 2020.