



## **December 31, 2020 - Saint Paul Update on Emergency Grants via CARES or Internal Donor Funding**

Saint Paul has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement to receive approved federally approved funds under the CARES Act and as required by the assurance; the school will distribute at least 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The remaining 50 percent of these funds will be used to offset expenses incurred by the school due to campus closures related to COVID.

Number of 18004(a)(1) awards disbursed on date of grant submission: 0

Number of 18004(a)(1) awards disbursed through December 31, 2020: 89 awards distributed for \$150 each to 89 individual students (Total cost: \$13,350)

Number of students who are eligible for 18004(a)(1): 89

Estimated students eligible to participate under 484 Title 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: approximately 89

Method of determination: Equal distribution, see below for further explanation\*

\*The DOE requires that schools confirm students receiving these grants had expenses related to COVID such as housing, food, transportation, etc.; therefore, eligible students are provided written notification that cashing the check constitutes an acknowledgment that they did incur eligible expenses related to COVID. No further documentation will be required by Saint Paul. The DOE has declared these emergency disaster grants and therefore the grants are not taxable. Equal payments were determined for individual grant awards based on the number of students who qualified using the outlined criteria and methodology. For the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, Saint Paul has been awarded a total of \$10,612 from Department of Education (DOE). The distribution date for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to eligible students will be before December 31, 2020, by check and USPS.

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students must be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to be considered for an Emergency Financial Aid Grant. To be deemed eligible for Title IV funds, a completed FAFSA must be on file with Saint Paul for the Spring and/or Fall term 2020. If a student does not have a FAFSA on file, they must demonstrate eligibility with the program by proving US citizenship or eligible noncitizenship, a valid Social Security number, registration with the selective service, a high school diploma, GED or completion of high school in an approved setting. Due to the small size of SPST, it is possible to determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis. The guidance from the DOE further excludes all online students, international or DACA students, and those students not eligible for Title IV funding from receiving these emergency financial aid grants.

The DOE permitted schools to develop the specific methodology for how the funds would be distributed with the goal to assist those students with the greatest financial needs related to COVID 19. The methodology to calculate the grants for Saint Paul students includes all full-time, on-ground, enrolled for the Spring or Fall term 2020 and eligible for Title IV funds. Initially, there are a total of approximately 100 students meeting the eligibility criteria for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants under this methodology. After review, only 89 students are eligible to receive a grant. Saint Paul will distribute Emergency Financial Aid Grants to eligible students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act based on the approved methodology, by check and USPS.

***Additionally, SPST is accepting donations to provide emergency relief to students through the Student Emergency Fund (SEF)\*. Below are the details to ensure transparency.***

To ensure all students can obtain grants, the limit for each student submission is \$500. Students will apply through the SEF Fund Committee application process. SEF Fund Donations are controlled by the SPST SEF Charter and must only be used for student relief, per the Charter.

SEF Fund donation disbursements: 7 students for \$3,074 total (December 31, 2020)

SEF Fund donations received: 21 donations for \$5,815 (December 31, 2020)

SEF Fund donations students eligible to apply: ALL SPST Seminary students

### **A United Methodist Seminary**

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