



## **CARES Act Grant Disclosure and Report**

*Sept 30, 2020*

1. CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Report As provided by the U.S. Department of Education (Department”), Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs universities in receipt of federal funding under Section 18004 of the CARES Act to submit a report to the Secretary 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.
2. Sussex County Community College is participating the HEERF Program (known as “CARES” on the SCCC campus) to provide emergency funding under Section 18004 (a)(1) to students on the SCCC campus to meet unanticipated financial needs related to the pandemic. SCCC acknowledges the Certification and Agreement was signed and returned to the Department of Education. This agreement assures that the institution has used the applicable funds designated under this program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
3. Sussex County Community College has received Financial Aid Grants for Students from the Department of Education for Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The total amount of funds provided to students for distribution is \$578,418.00. (HEERF)
4. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed by SCCC to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act  
As of 9/30/2020: \$126,125 in Emergency Financial Grants has been distributed to SCCC students.

5. 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 since the inception of the program are listed below.

# of Students awarded Emergency Financial Aid Grants as of

9/30/2020

568 students

6. The methodology 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 are summarized below.

### **Eligibility for Award**

All students that filed a FAFSA were reviewed to determine their level of financial need. All Pell eligible Expected Family Contributions (EFC) were awarded first, followed by students with EFC's in excess of the Pell eligibility tables, working from the lowest up to the highest.

Students had to be enrolled in at least one class.

Unless students required funds for materials (such as books or technology), funds were not disbursed until after the first day of classes.

### **Award Availability**

Tuition and fee awards covered up to 100% of semester tuition and fees less any Financial Aid Grant eligibility.

A maximum award of \$1,170-\$3,000 was available for additional expenses, depending on the number of credits attempted. (Discontinued after Spring 2022 semester)

### **Award Selection**

Applications were initially screened by the Financial Aid Office, which gathered additional information on requests if sufficient detail was needed.

Pell grant eligible students are considered as students with exceptional need and therefore given priority. If sufficient funds were available, non-Pell grant recipients were considered based on need or extenuating circumstances. At this time, because of available funds, all applicants, regardless of need, have been considered.

The Financial Aid Office awards the funds through the financial aid system, and transmits this information to the Bursar's Office.

The Bursar's Office posts the awards to the student accounts and processed the refunds promptly.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Information regarding the Grants is provided under COVID announcements on the College home page.

Students were provided notification that the funds were a direct result of the CARES Act, CRRSA, and the ARP (American Rescue Plan). Families were advised they may request a Professional Judgement review if their financial circumstances have changed due to the COVID Pandemic. If eligible, additional federal, State and Cares monies were awarded.