

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting: Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students May 21, 2020

To maintain compliance with federal regulations regarding receipt and distribution of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, Dawson Community College is required to provide the following information to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received the allocation for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004 of the *CARES Act*:

Agreement Details

Dawson Community College signed and submitted the *CARES Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Certification and Agreement* on April 14, 2020 and received the \$71,076 CARES student allocation on May 4, 2020. As of June 11, 2020 DCC has drawn down \$39,150 of the allocation.

Funding Distribution To Date

As of June 11, 2020, Dawson Community College has distributed \$45,900 to 98 students. These figures must be updated every 45 days.

Funding Eligibility

There are an estimated 238 students at Dawson Community College who are eligible for CARES Act funds. These students identified met the requirements for the CARES Act from regulations issued by the Department of Education on April 21, 2020. This guidance required Title IV eligibility. In addition to Title IV eligibility, the CARES Act provided additional regulations that excluded fully On-line students. To be eligible for a *CARES Act* Emergency Grant, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in (or accepted for enrollment in) a degree or certificate program during the Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall 2020 terms.
2. Have been enrolled in at least one course in the Spring 2020, Summer, and Fall 2020 terms.
3. Have completed a 2019-2020 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* to verify the following general eligibility requirements:
 - a. Have a valid Social Security Number.
 - b. Be a U.S. citizen or have qualifying non-citizenship status.
 - c. Have earned a high school diploma or GED.
 - d. Have registered for selective service (if the individual is male and under 26 years of age).
 - e. Fulfill the *Satisfactory Academic Progress* standards of Dawson Community College at the beginning of the Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and or Fall 2020 terms.
 - f. Have a certified need of funding for eligible expenses incurred as a result of disruption to College operations which are related to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

Note: A student who has not yet completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid may do so now (fafsa.ed.gov) to be eligible for a CARES Act Emergency Grant.

Note: A student enrolled in classes for a program that was offered exclusively online during the Spring and Summer terms is not eligible for a CARES Act Emergency Grant. **Update:** Per NASFAA guidance “As another example, let’s say a program was intentionally designed as a hybrid-program, and students were exclusively ground-based one term and then exclusively online the next. On March 13, 2020, they happened to be in the online portion. However, since the program itself is not exclusively online, those students are eligible for HEERF grants provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.” Due to this guidance a questions was added to the application asking students if the intend to enroll in a ground based class in the future. If so that student may be eligible for funds and is allowed to complete the application.

A student who is in default on a Title IV loan (or who owes refund money on a Title IV grant) is also ineligible for CARES Act funding.

Methodology for Eligibility and Grant Amount

The College’s CARES Act Committee, comprised of representatives of the Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Business Services, established a method to distribute the funds using a simple application process that minimizes hurdles for eligible students to receive CARES aid. The process ensures that College staff are able to distribute the aid without undue delays.

CARES Act Emergency Grants will be distributed in the Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall 2020 terms.

CARES Act Emergency Grants will be a maximum of \$500 per term. This amount was determined based on the expense category selected during the application completion. This was done to identify student expenses related to campus disruption. The amount related to each category is listed below.

Technology \$500	Food \$100	Housing \$100	Transportation \$100	Course Materials \$50	Child Care \$50	Other \$100 Computer Purchase \$500
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Students living in campus housing prior to March 13th will receive the \$500 maximum regardless of category selected. Expenses incurred for these students due to campus disruption will have met the conditions for the \$500 maximum automatically.

Communication

After posting the CARES Act Emergency Grant information on the College’s website, Dawson Community personnel directly emailed CARES Act information with the application to students who had occupied campuses housing Spring 2020 Term to prioritize meet the need of students most directly affected by campus disruption. A second email was sent to all students attending at least one class that was campus based before March 13th detailing how to apply for CARES Act Emergency aid

This approach balanced the objective to distribute *CARES Act* Emergency Grants as quickly as possible to eligible students and ensuring transparency and accountability, while maximizing but not overburdening institutional capacity.

Students meeting the eligibility criteria above may apply for a *CARES Act* Emergency Grant using the application form at:

https://dawsoncommunitycollege.formstack.com/forms/emergency_assistance_form

Distributions of *CARES Act* Emergency Funds began on May 13, 2020.