

SUNY Westchester Community College
75 Grasslands Road
Valhalla NY 10595

**P425E201126: CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) –
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

**Report #5 (Quarter Report 2) as of December 31, 2020
Due by January 10, 2021¹**

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- 1. Acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004 (a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.**

SUNY Westchester Community College acknowledges an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement for the **Student Emergency Aid Portion** of funds on April 14, 2020 and received its award (P425E201126) on April 23, 2020.

SUNY Westchester Community College also acknowledges that an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement for the **Institutional Portion** of funds on April 23, 2020 and received its award (P425F202001) on May 7, 2020.

The institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the total funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

- 2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.**

¹ This report conforms to the reporting requirements posted by the US Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education on May 6, 2020 (<https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg.>) and updated on August 28 2020 (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/31/2020-19041/notice-of-public-posting-requirement-of-grant-information-for-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund>).

SUNY Westchester Community College has been awarded \$3,597,836 of HEERF funds (Grant P425E201126) from the Department pursuant to the Certification and Agreement for **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**.

SUNY Westchester Community College has also been awarded \$3,597,836 of HEERF funds from the Department pursuant to the Certification and Agreement from the **Institutional Portion**.

The total funds awarded under the 18004(a) (1) allocation to date is \$7,195,672.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e. as of the 30 day Report; every 45 days after; and implementation of Quarterly Reports).

SUNY Westchester Community College has distributed a total of **\$3,916,908** of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of **December 31, 2020** (Report #5, Second Quarterly Report required under August 28, 2020 guidance). \$3,597,836 was distributed under the Student Portion (P425E201126) as of 12/31/2020. An additional \$316,272 was distributed under the Institutional Portion (P425F202001) as of 12/31/2020.

4. Estimated Total Number of Eligible Students

SUNY Westchester Community College has determined an estimated total of **4,396** students at the institution are 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.

5. Total Number of Students Received Emergency Financial Aid Grant

There are **3,455** WCC students that have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the **31 December 2020** (Second Quarterly Report). WCC received SUNY System final policy and procedure approval for the distribution of the Student Emergency Financial Portion of HEERF Cares Act funds.

6. Method to Determine Emergency Financial Aid Grants

SUNY Westchester Community College has prioritized awarding of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to its students in the following manner:

Priority 1 - Pell recipients

70% of the funds received will be used to meet the emergency need of students impacted by COVID-19 in this category.

Priority 2 – Eligible Non-Pell recipients

25% of the funds received will be used to meet the emergency need of students impacted by COVID-19 in this category.

Extra funding – Eligible students in special circumstances

5% of the funds received will be used to supplement amounts of the max awards of \$1,000 for students who have special circumstances and a particularly pressing need (up to Pell max of \$6,195 per award).

Beginning August 12, 2020, new and continuing enrolled students who are Title IV eligible and registered for FALL 2020 Semester (and for subsequent semesters as CARES Act funds are available), can receive CARES Act Grants (up to \$700 for full-time students 12 credits and above and \$350 for part-time students less than 12 credits). Priority 1 is to meet the emergency needs of students who have been impacted by COVID 19 who are Pell recipients and students with the lowest EFC's on the FAFSA. Priority 2 is to meet the needs of eligible students who are Title IV eligible undergraduates will to complete the FAFSA and students with the lowest EFCs.

Prior to August 12, 2020, under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, WCC students may receive awards ranging from **\$500 to \$3,000**, with additional awards available up to the maximum Federal Pell grant threshold of \$6,195 per award.

7. Institutional Instructions, Directions, or Guidance to Students

SUNY Westchester Community College has distributed the following communication to students: (Fall Semester, 2020)

Institutional Instructions:

All eligible students will be informed as follows: during the application process for new students and during registration for new students already enrolled for fall or continuing students, via email, website, phone calls, direct mail and other outreach. Prospective CARES Act grant recipients will be informed about eligibility requirements for receiving the CARES #2 Act grant and how this emergency grant can assist with their educational expenses.

Eligible students who have expenses due to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID 19 include students' ability to cover one or more of the following expenses: housing costs; living expenses; food; healthcare; course materials; technology such as laptops and WIFI; childcare; and transportation.

This grant is available to both new and returning students enrolling in the Fall 2020 and subsequent semesters as funding availability permits.

Students must have a FAFSA on file and meet all Title IV eligibility requirements including SAP. Awards will be applied to the student's financial aid screen but will not be disbursed to the student until at least the Monday after the second full week for courses for the semester the award will be applied. Please understand that this award is not a financial aid package award but an Emergency grant. The emergency grant will not reflect on the students account so an accurate bill is showing. Once their registration is confirmed for the fall semester, a direct payment will be sent to their address on file in a form of a check via the Bursars Office. Students who do not register for the Fall 2020 semester will have their CARES Act award cancelled. Awards will be adjusted for any subsequent enrollment changes that increase/decrease full/part-time enrollment.

The previous application for the Spring 2020 semester will cease as of Wednesday, August 12, 2020. All applications moving forward will be determined on Fall 2020 enrollment.

Students will be notified of the new process through communications from Enrollment Management and Community College Relations. Students will be asked to identify that they have additional expenses due to the closure of campus operations from COVID 19 on the website application.

Awards will be granted in order of FAFSA filing date and student need, until funds are exhausted.

Guidance to Students on the College Website:

To address the needs created in these unprecedented and challenging times, the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) was signed into law to get support to college students in need of relief as quickly as possible. Funding is prioritized to help cover your expenses related to the disruptions of campus operations due to coronavirus. To be eligible for a CARES Act grant, students must be enrolled in a Associate degree or credit certificate program at Westchester Community College and must have completed a FAFSA and met Title IV Federal Financial Aid eligibility requirements (US Citizen or Permanent Resident, and in good academic standing-New students are automatically in good academic standing)

- incurred additional expenses due to the closure of campus operations due to COVID-19
- enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester

Award amount for full-time students (12 or more credits) will be \$700 and award amount for part-time students (fewer than 12 credits) will be \$350.

Grant requests will be reviewed and processed as received and awards will be made until funds are exhausted. Award recipients will be notified and will receive a check at their home address for the total amount of their award.

Once awarded, the CARES Act Grant will be applied to your financial aid but not your student account through the Bursar.