

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (Quarter ending December 31, 2020)

Suffolk County Community College acknowledges an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and 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. Suffolk County Community College has received or will receive \$6,589,770 from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Suffolk County Community College has distributed \$6,568,462 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020. \$2,733,712 of this was distributed between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Suffolk County Community College has determined that approximately 14,000 students, based on the number of students who submitted a FAFSA in the 2018-2019 academic year, at the institution are potentially 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.

8,655 students have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020. 1,874 students have received a Priority 1 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020, with 73 students receiving Priority 1 grants between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. 1,810 students have received a Priority 2 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020, with 212 students receiving Priority 2 grants between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. 7,603 students have received a Priority 3 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020, with all of these students being awarded within the calendar quarter ending December 31, 2020.

Suffolk County Community College has prioritized awarding of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to its students in the following manner (methodology):

Priority 1: Pell Grant recipients during the Spring 2020 semester will receive an award, upon request and certification that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the Spring 2020 semester, in an amount corresponding to the number of credits they were taking during the Spring 2020 semester.

Priority 2: All Title IV eligible students during the Spring 2020 semester who have unexpected expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 were eligible to submit an application for a CARES Act emergency grant. This application asked students to explain how their expenses have unexpectedly increased as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

Priority 3: Block grants were awarded to all Title IV eligible students enrolled during the Fall 2020 semester as of the end of November 2020 and who otherwise met the general eligibility criteria to receive a CARES Act emergency grant. Students did not have to apply for these funds, and the funds awarded were based on the number of credits they were taking: Pell grant recipients (\$100 if enrolled less than half-time; \$125 if enrolled half-time; \$200 if enrolled $\frac{3}{4}$ time; \$350 if enrolled full-time), Title IV aid recipients (\$75 if enrolled less than half-time; \$125 if enrolled half-time; \$250 if enrolled $\frac{3}{4}$ time; \$350 if enrolled full-time).

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students thus far have received awards ranging from \$75 to \$3,000.

Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants has been posted on Suffolk County Community College's CARES Act Emergency Funds webpage: <https://sunysuffolk.edu/coronavirus/cares-act-emergency-funds.jsp>.

Spring 2020 Pell Grant Recipients began receiving email communications on June 3, 2020 informing them they were eligible to request their priority CARES Act emergency grant, with instructions on how to submit their request and certification through the MySCCC student portal. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student acknowledges that he/she has or will have incurred allowable expenses of food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, childcare, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student further understands that it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the Financial Aid office immediately if he/she will not incur expenses during the Spring 2020 semester that meet or exceed the amount of any award. Any CARES Act emergency grant funding students receive are required to be used toward the expenses for which they were approved.

The application for all Title IV eligible students to apply for and receive CARES Act emergency grant funds in connection with the Spring 2020 semester was made available and announced to students on July 7, 2020. Via this application, students request funds in specific amounts corresponding to identified expenses in their applications; once their applications are reviewed, they are awarded funds if eligible or are informed if they are not eligible. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student acknowledges that he/she has or will have incurred allowable expenses of food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, childcare, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student further understands that it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the Financial Aid office immediately if he/she will not incur expenses during the Spring 2020 semester that meet or exceed the amount of any award. Any CARES Act emergency grant funding students receive are required to be used toward the expenses for which they were approved.

Students were emailed about the Phase 1 and Phase 2 application process four times.

Students who received Priority III awards in connection with block grants to students in the Fall 2020 semester were notified of their award and instructed as follows: “In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), funds have been made available through the CARES Act to award emergency grants to Title IV eligible students for expenses related to the disruption due to COVID-19. Suffolk County Community College has deemed you eligible to receive a CARES Act award of \$_____ as part of our Phase III Fall 2020 distribution of emergency financial aid grants to students. This is not a loan and will not need to be paid back. These funds can be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and/or transportation). Please click [here](#) for more information on what is included in a student’s cost of attendance.”