CARES Act Emergency Funds

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted on March 27, 2020, allows higher education institutions to use certain funds allocated by the Department of Education to support students and higher education institutions with expenses and financial needs related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Riverside College of Health Careers is one of many institutions eligible for funds allocated under the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Riverside College of Health Careers has been approved for total grant funding under section 18804(a)(1) in the amount of $346,191 and has signed and returned the Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement. The U.S. Department of Education stipulates of the total funds received, at least 50% must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students. The College intends to award at least $200,000 of these allocated grant funds to be used by students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Who is eligible for the Emergency Grant Aid?

- Students who were enrolled in at least six (6) credits of an on-ground, residential program in the Spring 2020 semester as of March 13, 2020 to include both Day and Evening/Weekend division students;
- Students who are, or could be, eligible under section 484 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), to participate in programs under Title IV of the HEA; and (Title IV funds-eligibility is based on information provided on a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students not currently receiving Title IV aid, are encouraged to submit a FAFSA in order to determine Title IV eligibility and consideration for an emergency grant.)
- Students who are NOT known to currently be in default or owe an overpayment to a federal aid program.

What is the process for determining who receives Emergency Grant Aid?

As of March 13, 2020, RCHC had 312 students enrolled in on-ground, residential programs. A general review of additional student-incurred expenses due to the transition to on-line education included, but was not limited to, hardware and software technology purchases as well as home internet access. To offset these expenses, grant aids will be disbursed as follows:

- **277** students enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester, including graduating seniors, are eligible to receive $550;
- **114** of the 277 are also Pell-eligible students are eligible to receive an additional $300 (for a total grant of $850); and,
- **35** students are not currently eligible due to incomplete or missing FAFSA information (these students have been individually emailed to complete a current FAFSA for further consideration of the grant award).
These funds are a one-time grant and are not renewable. The following are considered expenses under a student's cost of attendance, related to the disruption of College operations due to COVID-19 by the Department of Education: housing, relocation, food, technology, course materials, healthcare, and childcare.

**Next Steps & Notification of Award**

Students who are eligible to receive CARES Act grant funds will be notified via email in early July. By accepting the funds, students are confirming they incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

**8/10/2020**

*After contacting the 35 students with incomplete or missing FAFSA information a total of $198,100 was distributed to eligible students. Awards provided in late July, early August by check or student account credit were as follows:*

- **298** students enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester received $550,
- **114** of Pell-eligible students received an additional $300 (for a total grant of $850); and,
- **14** students were determined ineligible due FAFSA information available

*Additional award opportunities are being reviewed for fall 2020 disbursement to those students continuing education with unexpected, temporary on-line requirements and additional COVID-19 related expenses extending through the fall semester.*

If there are questions about eligibility or regarding this grant award program, please contact:

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or

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References:

[https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html)