

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provides one-time funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted due to COVID-19. The availability of this award is not continuous.

To fulfill the Department of Education's guidance, South Carolina State University will be issuing grants to students across all levels as determined by the FAFSA, with amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1000. Pell Grant recipients will receive \$500 to \$1000 and all other eligible students will receive \$500 to \$750. The grants must be used 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). The grants may not fully cover the expenses a student has incurred due to the disruption.

The grants were awarded to students that met the following criteria:

- South Carolina State University has received an official 2019-2020 FAFSA of March 22, 2020
- Enrolled degree seeking for spring 2020 term as of March 22, 2020
- Not enrolled exclusively in an online program, defined as an educational program that has no residential classes over the course of the entire program
- Meet **Title IV Federal Financial Aid eligibility requirements**
- Meet **Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements**

We disbursed the funds in four tiers: we awarded \$500 -\$1000 to Federal Pell Grant recipients; \$750 to students with Expected Family Contributions (EFC) less than \$5570- \$10,000, \$500 to students with any gross financial need as demonstrated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and \$500 to Title IV eligible graduate student.

CARES Act guidance excludes visiting transient students, non-degree-seeking students enrolled for less than half-time, students enrolled in 100% online, international and undocumented students.

**The award notice sent to each student at their South Carolina State University email will explain the purpose of the CARES funds awarded to them. Awards will be made to students via the already-established aid awarding process. These awards will be refunded regardless of any balance on the students' account, per statute. Refunds will be sent via direct deposit or paper check, depending upon the student's already-chosen method with the Bursar's Office.**

*By accepting the CARES Act Fund, you acknowledge that you have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.*

*For questions regarding eligibility, please contact the Director of Financial Aid at 803-533-3712 or [tyoung15@scsu.edu](mailto:tyoung15@scsu.edu). For questions regarding disbursement, please reach out to Student Accounts at 803-536-8226.*

*A portion of the allocation has been set aside to award emergency grants to students who have not already completed a 2019-2020 FAFSA.*