

**Montgomery College CARES Act  
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter  
Student Assistance Report**

**OPEID Number:** 00691100  
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**Contact:** Judith M. Taylor, Director of Student Financial Aid

**1. Statement of Use**

On April 9, 2020, Montgomery College (MC) received notification that the College was awarded \$10,995,749 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with no less than fifty percent (\$5,497,875) for Emergency Assistance Aid Grants to students. The guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) stated that these are direct emergency grants for students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus (food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). The College must prioritize students with the greatest need and the funds may not be used to cover tuition and fees. MC signed the Certification and Agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act on April 19, 2020, and received the allocation on April 24, 2020.

**2. Award Amount**

MC received \$5,497,875 for CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**3. 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.**

As of December 31, 2020, MC has awarded \$5,435,100.00

Award Category	Amount Awarded
6 to 12 billable hours/credits (\$500)	\$ 5,149,500.00
1 to 5 billable hours/credits (\$300)	\$285,600.00
Total Amount	\$ 5,435,100.00

**4. The estimated total number of students at the institution 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.**

As of May 19, 2020, we estimated 8,415 MC students were potentially eligible to participate in the program based on completion of a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and enrolled at the institution in on-campus classes at the time of the COVID-19 disruption. 7,102 of those students had completed all requirements for Title IV eligibility. The additional 1,313 completed the FAFSA but had not completed the verification process. By September 30, 2020, 8,936 became potentially eligible. 7,413 completed all requirements for Title IV eligibility and or met the basic Title IV aid matches. The remaining 1,523 never completed their file so we could determine eligibility. Funds that were not spent in 2019-2020 were moved into the 2020-2021 academic year. For these funds an

application was required. Of the 3,488 students who applied, as of December 31, 2020 we were able to award 2,779 who met all eligibility requirements. One hundred seventeen (117) students awarded in 2019-2020 lost eligibility, most based on stale dated checks that could not be reissued. These funds have also been moved to funding for 2020-2021.

**5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a) (1) of the CARES Act.**

As of December 31, 2020, eight thousand five hundred fifty-eight (8,558) MC students have received a CARES Act Emergency Assistance Grant.

Award Category	Number of Students Awarded
6 to 12 billable hours/credits	7,779
1 to 5 billable hours/credits	779
Total Awards	8,558

**6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.**

In order to provide maximum support based on the funds available, the size of the award is based on the number of credits each student is taking:

**2019-2020**

- Students enrolled in: 6 to 12 billable hours/credits: \$500
- Students enrolled in: 1 to 5 billable hours/credits: \$300

**2020-2021**

- Students enrolled in: 6 to 12 billable hours/credits: \$1,000
- Students enrolled in: 1 to 5 billable hours/credits: \$500

Changes in enrollment status may result in adjustment of individual student awards.

- **First Phase of Distribution Part 1** - Awarded May 5, 2020, disbursed to students May 9, 2020
  - Spring 2020 Pell grant recipients enrolled for spring semester who did not completely withdraw. This is a group of students with documented financial need and Title IV eligibility. The change to remote instruction after March 13, 2020, affected them financially in increased technology costs, utility costs, child care costs, and loss of parent and/or student wages in at least the amounts listed above.

- **First Phase of Distribution Part 2-** Awarded May 21, 2020, disbursed to students May 22, 2020
  - Spring 2020 Subsidized Direct Loan recipients and additional Pell Grant recipients enrolled for spring semester who did not completely withdraw. This is a group of students with documented financial need and Title IV eligibility. The change to remote instruction after March 13, 2020, affected them financially in increased technology costs, utility costs, child care costs, and loss of parent and/or student wages in at least the amounts listed above.
  
- **Second Phase of Distribution Part 1** - Awarded July 31, 2020, disbursed to students August 1, 2020
  - On May 8, 2020, an online CARES Act assistance application form became available. MC students can state if COVID-19 disruptions have adversely affected them in one or more of the following areas: loss of income, food, housing, utilities, course materials, technology, health care, and/or child care.
  - Students who already completed a FAFSA for 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 and have already documented their Title IV eligibility, but did not already receive an award and maintained enrollment in Spring 2020, along with any students who met the criteria for Phase One and have not received the grant, were the first priority in this phase. Of the 5697 students awarded, sixty (60) additional students were in this category.
  - Applications were accepted from May 8, 2020 through August 14, 2020. Two thousand one hundred and forty-nine (2,149) CARES Emergency Grant Applications have been received. Applications were screened based on the criteria in the proposed final rule. Based on eligibility criteria 117 applicants have been awarded. Many applicants already received the grant in the phase 1 distribution, and many others are not eligible. We continued to screen applications to determine eligibility.
  
- **Second Phase of Distribution Part 2** Awarded September 18, 2020, disbursed to students September 19, 2020
  - An additional 171 students who met either the First or Second Phase eligibility criteria and were enrolled in either spring 2020 or summer 2020 and had not already received a CARES grant in spring or summer 2020.
  
- **Third Phase of Distribution**
  - Based on the awarding of both the First and Second Phases and the most recent Department of Education guidance for the disbursement of these funds, we have adjusted the criteria for Phase Three. On September 10, 2020 we made available to students our Fall 2020 CARES application. Three thousand four hundred eighty eight (3,488) applications were received. Awards were made and funds disbursed on 10/10/2020, 11/13/2020 and 12/11/2020 to 2,779 of those 3,488, who in addition to submitting a CARES Grant application, also submitted a 2020-2021 FAFSA and met the required the Title IV eligibility criteria. The remaining 709 students will be awarded as

they gain eligibility as long as funding is still available.

- **Fourth Phase of Distribution**

- If funds remain after Phase three, we will consider additional emergency assistance for enrolled students. Eligibility will be tied to submission of a 2020-2021 FAFSA, and an application denoting hardship from the coronavirus pandemic and or continued disruption of normal campus operations.

**7. Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

- Students who received grants in the first phases received an email notification from the financial aid office about the amount of the grant, what it is for, and why the student is receiving it.
- In the spring of 2020, the college President announced the receipt of the CARES Act funds and the Phase one disbursement of student emergency assistance grants. Communication from the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs introduced the availability of the new online CARES Act Emergency Assistance Grant application, the criteria, and how to apply for a grant.
- The MC Office of Communications is assisting with advertising the grant and the online application process.
- The grant availability is also announced through the MC Financial Aid Office's social media platforms.
- Email notifications have been sent to students with updates regarding CARES grant application processing and eligibility criteria.
- Students who have applied for CARES Emergency Grants, but are ineligible, receive notifications explaining why they are ineligible.
- As we have moved into the 2020-2021 academic year, the college administration, office of communications and the financial aid office continue to announce the availability of CARES grant funds and the application process.
- On 11/4/20 we closed the Fall 2020 CARES grant application. We have more applications than could be awarded with the remaining funds.