

**Montgomery College CARES Act
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
3rd Quarter 2021
Student Assistance Report**

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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. The Financial Aid Office distributed an additional \$1,536,410 of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund I (HEERF I) Institutional Portion as 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 October 7, 2021, MC has awarded the total \$5,497,875 to students from the student portion of the grant and the \$1,536,410 of the institutional portion.

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 recovered funds have also been moved to funding for 2020-2021. As of April 9, 2021, with the funds recovered from the stale dated checks and the institutional portion, we were

able to award the 132 remaining eligible students who completed our fall 2020 application. The additional institutional funds were evenly distributed to our most needy students enrolled for spring 2021. Between April 9, 2021 and July 9, 2021, we received \$11,500 in stale dated uncashed checks. Four thousand (\$4000) of that has been awarded to students who became eligible based on the additional HEERF II guidance. Between our July 9 reporting and this report, six (6) additional students lost eligibility either through unclaimed stale dated checks or confirmed lack of attendance. The remaining recouped funds were distributed to students with existing or new applications on file using updated HEERF III guidance.

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 October 7, 2021, eight thousand seven hundred fifty-six (8756) student awards have been made through the student portion of the CARES Act Emergency Assistance Grant. One hundred forty (140) have been cancelled due to uncashed stale dated checks or confirmed nonattendance. Many students have received grants in more than one semester. This accounts for the difference in awards and students. Six thousand eight hundred ninety (6890*) students have active awards.

Award Semester	Number of Active Student Awards	Amount
Spring 20	5730	\$2,764,600.00
Summer 20	47	\$19,900
Fall 20	2830	\$2,697,375.00
Spring 21	4	\$4000
Summer 21	9	\$12,000.00
Total Awards	8620	\$5,497,875.00
Total Number of Unduplicated Students	6890	\$5,497,875.00
Total This Quarter 7/1/21-10/3/21	13	\$14,300.00

As of October 7, 2021, student awards made through the institutional portion of the CARES ACT Emergency Assistance Grant still remain at four thousand seventeen (4,017*). These students may have also received more than one CARES grant. This again, accounts for the difference in awards and students.

Award Semester	Number of Active Student Awards	Amount
Fall 20	63	\$59,000.00
Spring 21	3993	\$1,477,410.00
Total Awards	4056	\$1,536,410.00
Total Number of Unduplicated Students	4017	\$1,536,410.00
Total This Quarter 7/1/21-10/3/21	0	\$0.00

*unduplicated

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 was initially based on the number of credits each student was taking. After student and institutional funds were awarded, the remaining institutional funds were evenly distributed to spring Pell Grant recipients. As subsequent funding became available and eligibility criteria changed with HERRF II and HERRF III, we moved from an amount based on enrollment hours to a standard grant amount for all.

Spring/Summer-2019-2020

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

Fall/Spring-2020-2021

- Students enrolled in: 6 to 12 billable hours/credits: \$1,000
- Students enrolled in: 1 to 5 billable hours/credits: \$500
- Remaining Institutional: \$370

Summer 2021

- Any Student with confirmed attendance \$1500

Enrollment status changes and/or amount of remaining grant funds may result in adjustment of or different amounts 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 5,697 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 10/10/20, 11/13/20, 12/11/20**
 - 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.
- **Third Phase of Distribution 2/26/21, 3/26/21**
 - Awards were disbursed on 2/26/21 and 3/26/21 to the 132 students of the remaining 709, who applied, and met all the eligibility criteria. These awards were made with the remaining \$62,775 of the student portion of the grant and \$59,000 of institutional portion funds.
- **Fourth Phase of Distribution 3/26/21**
 - New and additional awards were disbursed on 3/26/21 to Pell Grant students enrolled in the spring 21 semester. Identified as our most needy students and most affected by COVID-19, \$1,477,410 in the amount of \$370 was given to 3993 students.
 - An additional \$4000 in awards were made to students in spring 2021 from funds recovered from stale dated checks. Another \$7500 remains to be spent. It, along with any other recouped funds, will be spent in summer and or fall 2021 using the additional eligibility criteria given in HEERF II and HEERF III.
- **Final Phase of Distribution 7/30/21 and After if needed**
 - Recouped funds from stale dated checks or non-attendance allowed new and additional awards to be given to students who had an application on file, but either came after the initial funds were expended or may have not been eligible before HEERF II and HEERF III.

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 MC 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. Recouped funds were used to award applications that had not been awarded.
- Students who remained ineligible for the CARES grant were sent notification, with a link to apply for the CRRSAA grant.