**REPORT on**

**CARES Act Emergency Grants to Students**

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

October 6, 2020

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a total funding allocation was established for River Valley Community College (RVCC), with at least 50 percent reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

River Valley Community College submitted a signed ***“Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement”*** to the US Department of Education for the emergency financial aid grants to students portion (HEERF), acknowledging that $192,342 was allocated “to provide emergency financial aid grants to students 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).”

## How much in emergency grant funds has been distributed to students?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **As of** | **Total Amount Disbursed** | **Total Number of Students** |
| May 22, 2020 | $0 | 0 |
| July 6, 2020 | $156,800 | 430 |
| August 20, 2020 | $192,342 | 430 |
| October 6, 2020 | $192,342 | 430 |
| January 8, 2021 | $192,342 | 430 |
| April 9, 2021 | $192,342 | 430 |

## Who is eligible for the Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds?

To be eligible for emergency financial aid grant funding, as outlined under CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1) students must:

* have been matriculated in a Title IV eligible program
* enrolled as of March 13, 2020
* be eligible to participate in programs under [Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965](https://www.ccsnh.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Section-484-of-HEA-Title-IV-Student-Eligibility-Criteria.pdf)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **As of** | **Estimated Number of Eligible Students** |
| May 22, 2020 | 441 |
| July 6, 2020 | 441 |
| August 20, 2020 | 441 |
| October 6, 2020 | 441 |
| January 8, 2021 | 441 |
| April 9, 2021 | 441 |

## How DID River Valley Community College determine which students received funds?

River Valley Community College (RVCC) asked students to complete a simple application by logging into the Student Information System (SIS). An email with instructions was sent out to possibly eligible students requesting the student to complete the survey so that RVCC could determine the need of our students. A deadline of June 5th was set to complete this application process. Priority funding was given to students who completed an application.

All completed surveys were reviewed on June 11, 2020. From this application process, RVCC determined that 111 students were eligible to receive CARES Act awards. Eligibility was based on the above requirements, a 2019/2020 FAFSA on file and having self-certified that they were affected by the “disruption of campus operations” due to COVID-19.

**Methodology**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Component | Amount | Rationale |
| Food | $200 | Additional $100 per month |
| Utilities | $200 | $100 for heat, $100 electricity |
| Internet | $150 |  |
| Course Materials | $150 | For new materials to attend remotely |
| Technology | $200 | Additional items needed to be remote  |
| Health Care | $100 | Co-pay for specialist |
| Childcare | $200 | Personal for spring =$900. Divided by 4.5 months=$200. |
| Transportation | $150 | Additional $75 per month |
|  | Cap at $1350 |  |

River Valley Community College assumes that all students were affected due to the “disruption of campus operations” and because of this, we awarded $300 each to 12 students of the 111 students who completed the survey but answered “no” to having been disrupted. Additionally, we looked at all enrolled students that did not complete an application as well.  Students that met the criteria above and had completed a 2019/2020 FAFSA were also awarded.  318 students received $250.

For summer 2020 River Valley Community College took the remaining $35, 542 and divided among the eligible summer students who enrolled for Spring 2020 , Summer 2020 and matriculated in an eligible programs.

## How did students receive their funds?

Funds were paid directly to students through the Bursar’s Office during the week of June 15, 2020.

Students were sent an email notifying them of their eligibility for the CARES Act Funding from the Financial Aid Office.

Students were sent an email notifying them of the amount of their refund and that the funds would be send to them via Nelnet.  Awarded students may have elected to receive awards via direct deposit by following the “How to Sign Up for Electronic Refunding” process at <https://www.ccsnh.edu/paying-for-college/resources/ccsnh-student-refunds>.

If direct deposit was not set up, HEERF funds were mailed to students at the permanent address on file at the College.