



Monroe County Community College:
CARES Act - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting
January 1, 2021
Quarterly Report

Monroe County Community College (OPEID 002294) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economics Security (CARES) Act on April 17, 2020.

MCCC's allocation of funding received through the CARES Act is \$1,300,516. MCCC will use no less than 50% of the funds (\$650,258) received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

The estimated total number of MCCC students 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 is 1521 students enrolled in the Winter 2020 and Summer 2020 semesters, and 1105 students enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester. MCCC fully expended the student portion of CARES Act funds by October 1, 2020.

For the quarterly report due on January 10, 2021, MCCC has issued \$650,258 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to 686 MCCC students. The Emergency Financial Aid Grants were administered in two phases, as agreed upon by the MCCC CARES Act Task Force.

For the first phase of CARES Act awarding, MCCC students were required to complete an application for Emergency Financial Aid Grants through the [AcademicWorks](#) scholarship portal. The application provided instructions to students that they must have a current FAFSA on file with MCCC and meet Title IV eligibility requirements. The application required students to identify the expense(s) they incurred related to the campus closing, and all operations and services being moved to an online format.

Eligibility for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for MCCC students is based on financial issues they have had or will face related to moving to online coursework, such as internet service issues, the need for a new computer or special software or hardware, or increased utility costs. The MCCC CARES Act Task Force developed the following guidelines for determining the Emergency Financial Aid Grant amounts:

- \$750 – Computer Purchase
- \$250 – Software Related to Online Courses
- \$100 – Other Technology Related to Online Courses (e.g. webcam, microphone, printer)
- \$250 – Increased Utility Costs
- \$ 60 per month – Internet Service Contract

Each student's situation was evaluated individually based on the information provided in the student's application, and MCCC maintained the flexibility to increase the amount awarded per eligible expense to each student on a case-by-case basis.

MCCC students were notified about the availability of these Emergency Financial Aid Grants, the requirement to meet Title IV eligibility criteria, and the application to apply for the funds via a press release, email notifications, letters mailed to address on file, text messages, the MCCC website and social media postings.

The second phase of CARES Act awarding was completed during the Fall 2020 semester. After all students had an opportunity to complete the application for Emergency Financial Aid Grants through the AcademicWorks scholarship portal and classes had been in session for one month for the semester, MCCC ended the CARES Act application period. The remaining amount of the student portion of CARES Act funding was divided equally among all Pell Grant recipients enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester who had not completed the application for CARES Act funding for the Fall 2020 semester. The Pell Grant recipients demonstrate the highest financial need (based on FAFSA results) for assistance in paying for the increased costs related to classes being held in an online and blended format during the Fall 2020 semester.