

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 45-Day
Fund Report
August 29, 2020

Acknowledgement of Signed Certification and Agreement

On April 27th, 2020 SMC signed and submitted to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement with the assurance that we intend to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Total Amount of Funds SMC Will Receive

Based on the initial CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) allocation, SMC will receive up to a total of \$761,058 from the Department for emergency grants to students who have had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Total Amount Of Emergency Financial Aid Grants Distributed

As of August 29, 2020 SMC has distributed \$339,250 in the form of emergency grants.

Estimated Number of Students Eligible to Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants

Approximately 966 students enrolled in the Spring and/or Summer 2020 semesters at SMC were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible for emergency grants. This eligibility was based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), requiring the following:

- student was enrolled in a financial-aid eligible degree or certificate program
- student filed a 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with SMC and was eligible for federal financial aid
- student was meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements for financial aid recipients

This estimation is based on guidance issued by the Department of Education. Funds may be available to make additional disbursements to students who are later determined to meet eligibility requirements.

Total Number of Students Who Have Received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant

As of August 29, 2020 SMC has distributed emergency grants to 423 students.

Methods Used to Determine Which SMC Students Receive a Grant Award and The Amount of That Award

SMC is using an application-based method of determining students who are eligible for emergency grants. Students who had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus are able to indicate which eligible expenses they incurred including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. Award amounts are calculated as \$250 per category, up to a maximum of \$750. Students who received or will receive a Pell Grant in the current award year are given an additional \$250 for a maximum amount of \$1,000.

The CARES Act Emergency Grant Application is located in SMC Wired. A link to the application was emailed directly to Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 students who were determined to be eligible based on the criteria previously outlined. A confirmation email is sent to each student upon submission of the application. A follow-up email is sent within two weeks of the application stating whether or not the student is eligible, and if so, the calculated amount of the emergency grant. Students are advised to set up direct deposit, or verify their address on file.

Based on available funds, the decision was made to allow students to receive a second CARES Act Emergency Grant for the Fall 2020 semester, provided that all eligibility requirements are met, and that the student reports additional or ongoing expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. An application will be sent to all eligible students at the start of fall classes. Award amounts will be calculated by the same formula used in previous semesters.

Email Sent to Eligible Students

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with emergency grant funding to be distributed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. An application for this grant is now available on SMC Wired at <https://forms.swmich.edu/smc-cares-grant>. At this time, only students who have filed a FAFSA, are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are making

Satisfactory Academic Progress can receive an emergency grant. The amount will be based on the types of emergency financial aid need and prior known financial need. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted.

If you have any questions about the CARES Act Emergency Grant Application, email the financial aid office at finaid@swmich.edu, or call 269-782-1316.

CARES Grant Application Text

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be providing Southwestern Michigan College with emergency grant funding to be distributed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. This application will allow SMC to determine your eligibility for these funds. At this time, only students who have filed a 2019-20 FAFSA, are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are making Satisfactory Academic Progress can receive an emergency grant. The amount will be based on type of emergency financial aid need and prior known financial need. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted. Dual enrolled high school and Early Middle College students are not eligible for the spring semester, and Ferris State and MSU Consortium students should seek opportunities at those institutions.

Emergency grants may not be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC, and will be disbursed directly to students. Receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that a student does not owe an outstanding balance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PAYMENT

The fastest way to receive your emergency grant is through direct deposit. If you have not set up your direct deposit bank account information through the Bill and Payment Center on SMC Wired, please do so by clicking on "Bill and Payment Center" in Wired and selecting "Refunds" from the menu at the top. Please note that direct deposit set up may take several days depending on your banking institution, so it is important to do so as soon as possible. Please be sure we have your correct address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.

Submission Confirmation Email:

The Financial Aid office has received your application for the SMC CARES grant. You will receive a response to your application in 5-10 business days. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact us at 269-782-1316 or email us at finaid@swmich.edu

Thank you,
The Financial Aid Office

Email Sent to Grant Recipients

SMC received your application for a CARES Act emergency grant for educational expenses incurred due to the Coronavirus shut down of campus operations. A grant in the amount of \$___ will be disbursed to you within the next two weeks.

If you've set up direct deposit, the funds will be deposited into your bank account. If you do not have direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed to the address we have on file for you. Questions about direct deposit can be sent to ecashier@swmich.edu.

Emergency grants may not be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC, and will be disbursed directly to students. Receipt of an emergency grant does not necessarily mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a current or future semester of enrollment.

I sincerely hope you and your family are safe and well during this extraordinary time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.