

**Montgomery College CRRSAA Act
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
2nd Quarter 2021
Student Assistance Report**

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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.

On February 16, 2021, Montgomery College received notification that an additional \$5,497,875 would be available to award to students through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). CRRSAA removed the requirement that a student must be eligible for Title IV aid to receive financial assistance under the HEERF programs and expanded eligibility to non-degree seeking, non-credit, dual enrollment, and continuing education students. Students exclusively enrolled in distance education may also now receive these funds. CRRSAA requires prioritization of need and can be used to cover any component of student's cost of attendance and emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental); and childcare. The grant can only be applied to tuition cost with the permission of the student.

2. Award Amount

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

3. Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act as of the date of submission.

As of June 30, 2021, MC has awarded \$3,286,000

Amount requesting tuition covered	\$2,188,000
Amount requesting direct payment	\$1,098,000

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 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.

On February 16, 2021 we estimated 18,769 MC students were potentially eligible to participate in the program based on completion of a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

and enrolled at the institution at the time of or after the COVID-19 declared emergency. As of May 24, 2021, an additional 471 students became potentially eligible. Of the 19,240 students, three thousand one hundred ninety-seven (3,197) completed an application.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.

As of June 30 2021, two thousand eight hundred eighty-one (2881) student awards have made through the student portion of the CRRSA Act Emergency Assistance Grant.

Award Category	Number of Students Awarded
Full time requesting tuition covered	796
½ to ¾ time requesting tuition covered	878
Less than ½ time requesting tuition covered	232
Full time requesting direct payment	395
½ to ¾ time requesting direct payment	431
Less than ½ time requesting direct payment	149

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 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.

In order to provide maximum support, based on the number of potentially eligible students and the funds available, the size of the award is based on the number of credits each student is taking.

Spring 2020-2021

- Students enrolled Full time: 12 or more billable hours/credits: \$1500
 - Students enrolled ½ to ¾ time: 6 to 11 billable hours/credits: \$1000
 - Students enrolled less than ½ time: 1 to 5 billable hours/credits: \$500
- **Distributions** - April 23, 2021, April 30, 2021, May 9, 2021, May 15, 2021, May 1, 2021, May 28, 2021
 - Students who met the eligibility criteria and had completed the application and 2021 FAFSA on file. We required the FAFSA, since initial CRRSAA guidelines still required citizenship to be checked and an application to allow students to opt in or out of their grant paying tuition charges and attest to the other criteria.

- **CRRSAA Denial letters June 9, 2021**
 - Students who did not meet the conditions for the CRRSAA grant were sent denial letters explaining why they were denied. The letter also gave them the link and encouraged them to apply for the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) application which expanded eligibility criteria.

- **Remaining CRRSAA Funds**
 - It was requested by the college administration that we divide our CRRSAA allocation, spending some in spring 21, some in summer 21 and some in fall 21. The remaining \$2,211,874 will be spent as the updated Department of Education guidance now allows using the expanded HEERF III, ARPA criteria.

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

- All students who received grants received an email notification from the financial aid office regarding the amount of the grant, what it is for, and why they are receiving it.
- The college President announced the receipt of the CRRSAA funds and the application process availability in weekly College updates.
- The MC Office of Communications published the grant information and online application process on the college website.
- The grant availability is also announced through the MC Financial Aid Office's social media platforms.
- Email notifications have been sent to all financial aid applicants with updates regarding the CRRSAA grant application processing and eligibility criteria.
- A special email notification was sent to all dual enrollment students alerting them to the availability of the CRRSAA grant and application process.
- Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) students were not targeted with notifications because WDCE is still trying to allocate Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding to that population.
- Students who have applied for CRRSAA Emergency Grants, but are ineligible, received notification explaining why they are ineligible and a link to apply for the ARPA grant.
- On 5/26/2021 we closed the CRRSAA grant application and replaced it with the ARP grant application.