

**Montgomery College
CARES Act
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
45-Day 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.

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 July 6, 2020, MC has awarded \$2,667,000.00.

Award Category	Amount Awarded
6 to 12 billable hours/credits (\$500)	\$2,529,000.00
1 to 5 billable hours/credits (\$300)	\$138,000
Total Amount	\$2,667,000.00

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 estimate 8,415 MC students are 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 completed all requirements

for Title IV eligibility. The additional 1,313 completed the FAFSA but have not completed the verification process. There are additional students who may become eligible as they request CARES Act emergency assistance and continue to complete the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 FAFSA.

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 July 6, 2020, five thousand five hundred and eighteen (5,518) MC students have received a CARES Act Emergency Assistance Grant.

Award Category	Number of Students Awarded
6 to 12 billable hours/credits (\$500)	5,058
1 to 5 billable hours/credits (\$300)	460
Total Awards	5,518

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 is based on the number of credits each student is taking:

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

- 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, will be the first priority in this phase.
- As of July 6, 2020, 1,924 CARES Emergency Grant Applications have been received. Applications are being screened based on the criteria in the proposed final rule.

○ **Third Phase of Distribution**

- Student who complete the online application, withdrew from spring 2020 and begin classes in summer 2020 or fall 2020, and meet all Grant eligibility criteria will be considered in this phase.

○ **Fourth Phase of Distribution**

- If funds remain after Phase one through three, we will consider additional summer and fall emergency assistance for enrolled students, that can be tied to financial hardships from the coronavirus pandemic and continued disruption of normal campus operations.

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 financial aid office about the amount of the grant, what it is for, and why the student is receiving it.
- 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 college communications office is assisting with advertising the grant and

online application process.

- The grant availability is also announced through the financial aid office 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.