

CARES Act and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Information

The CARES Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020, provides broad-based economic relief in response to the COVID-19 national pandemic. As part of this Act, institutions of higher education were provided funds to assist them and their students.

The CARES Act is federal legislation which provides a variety of financial support to individuals and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency financial aid grants. One part of this federal program allocates money to Illinois Valley Community College, and a portion of that allocation will be awarded to students who are experiencing expenses due to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Total Amount of Funds Received

The college's allocation through the HEERF program to be awarded to students is \$686,560.

Total Amount of Funds Distributed

As of June 30, 2020, no Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds have been distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

The amount of HEERF funding that institutions received is varied based on the Department of Education's allocation formula. That means the amount of the emergency grants at Illinois Valley Community College will not be the same as at other colleges. Each institution developed its own strategy for disbursing the funds to eligible students enrolled at their campus.

Eligible Students

As of May 28, 2020, 1,087 IVCC students were eligible to participate in this program. Eligible students for Spring 2020 participation were determined using the following criteria:

- 1) Enrolled in Spring 2020 courses
- 2) Have completed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

3) Meet basic eligibility criteria for Federal Title IV Financial Aid to be considered for these funds. Student must:

- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree, certificate or other recognized educational credential;
- Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school;
- Have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;
- Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP);
- Not owe an overpayment (refund) on Title IV grants;
- Not be in default on a Title IV loan;
- Be a U.S citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen;
- Have returned any fraudulently obtained Title IV funds, if the student is convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges;
- Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits;
- Have repaid any Title IV loan overpayment amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits, if obtained inadvertently;
- If you are male, have registered for Selective Service;
- Have a valid SSN, except for residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau; and
- Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.

Total Number of Students Receiving Grant

No Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act have been disbursed as of June 30, 2020.

Process to Determine Student Eligibility and Grant Amount

IVCC used the methods below to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Participation and Eligibility

Enrollment and federal financial aid eligibility are verified. Students are notified by their IVCC student email of their eligibility.

Determining Award Amount

Award amounts are determined by students' financial need and the number of credit hours enrolled in for the Spring 2020 semester.

CARES Act and HEERF funding FAQ

A comprehensive FAQ can be found on the IVCC Financial Aid website (<https://www.ivcc.edu/financialaid/>) that includes information about fund application, eligibility, distribution, and award amount, including other key details regarding the process and student support contacts.

Acknowledgements

An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.