

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR STUDENTS through the CARES Act Funding for Students

The following is posted in compliance with the CARES Act and to support transparency in the distribution of Emergency Grants.

- 1. 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.**

On April 27, 2020, Rappahannock Community College's President Dr. Shannon L. Kennedy signed, certified and returned an assurance the school will use at least 50% of the funds received from the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

- 2. The total amount of the funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

Rappahannock Community College received \$574,596 from the CARES Act on June 10, 2020 for the purposes of Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students.

- 3. The 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 (i.e., as of the 30-day report and every 45 days thereafter).**

Rappahannock Community College distributed \$434,150 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 415 students on June 11, 2020.

UPDATE: Rappahannock Community College distributed an additional \$54,250 to 55 students on 8/10/2020.

UPDATE: Rappahannock Community College distributed an additional \$1,375,500 to 2,379 students the week of July 12, 2021. This used the balance of CARES funding, all CRSSA funding and a portion of ARP Funds.

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.

Rappahannock Community College had 491 eligible students at the time of fund distribution.

5. The total number of students we have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Rappahannock Community College has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 471 students as of 12/31/2020.

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.

RCC students were notified of the availability of CARES Act funds through the college's website. Additionally, eligible students received a communication through the student message center portal as well as an email communication.

The first round of emergency grants (416 students) was available to Pell eligible students who met the following criteria:

- Students were enrolled in at least one college credit class that was being delivered on site at RCC on 3/13/2020
- Students were NOT enrolled in all online course work as of 3/13/2020
- Students were NOT dual enrollment students
- Students had an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of \$25,000 or less per the FAFSA
- Full-time students received a grant of \$1,150 and part time students received a grant of \$400.

The second round of emergency grants (55 students) was awarded to students who met criteria noted above, were not previously awarded a grant and applied through a college survey for an emergency grant due to financial hardship caused by the pandemic.

A third round of emergency grants were awarded to students in July of 2021. All students enrolled in Spring of 2021 received at least a \$500 emergency grant, while those with an EFC of under \$25,000 received a \$1000 grant. This included students in academic, adult education (at least 30 hours completed) and workforce programs (30 hour curriculum).

These funds are provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund and are intended to be used to cover the cost of attendance at RCC including tuition, child care, gas, personal technology needs, internet, instructional materials, and other costs related to attendance.

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

Eligible Rappahannock Community College students received the following email from the Financial Aid Department.

RCC recognizes that many of our students are experiencing expenses related to the disruption of campus operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. RCC received a Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) grant created under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Securities Act (CARES), which will be used to help our students affected by the crises. RCC will use these funds to provide one-time CARES Act Student Emergency Grants to eligible students.

Each qualified student enrolled in more than 6 credit hours in Spring 2020 will be awarded \$1150 and each student enrolled in less than 6 credit hours will receive \$400. This is a one-time allotment.

Please note this grant award should be used for the purposes of supporting you and your family during these difficult times. The grant should be used for food, housing, course materials, technology equipment, health care expenses and child care expenses to support your educational endeavors here at RCC. Rappahannock Community College anticipates that these funds will be disbursed to you no later than June 20, 2020. For the easiest and most efficient way to receive your grant award, you are encouraged to sign up for Direct Deposit at <https://rappahannock.afford.com/> If you do not sign up for direct deposit, all funds will default to a check. Please be sure your address on file is current.

Currently, there are no tax implications for these funds. IRS has determined that this grant is tax-exempt. For questions regarding this grant award, please contact 804-333-6730.