**Warren County Community College**

**CARES Acknowledgement and Information (Updated 10/1/2020)**

1. WCCC is participating the CARES Act and will provide 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.
2. The total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is $343,486 for a one-year period.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is
	* as of 5/22/2020: $27,715
	* as of 7/1/2020: $31,365
	* as of 9/1/2020: $55,700
	* as of 10/1/2020: $125,912
	* as of 12/31/2020: $170,518
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 is approximately 900 students for Spring 2020 semester. Additional students will be eligible for support in subsequent semesters depending on need and the availability of funds.
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 is
	* as of 5/22/2020: 39 students
	* as of 7/1/2020: 46 students
	* as of 9/1/2020: 83 students
	* as of 10/1/2020: 144 students
	* as of 12/31/2020: 182 students
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 is as follows:

Basic Eligibility

* + Students must have filed a FAFSA in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 academic year (depending on the year considered)
	+ Students must be matriculated and attending WCCC during the semester the funds are requested
	+ Students enrolled in spring 2020 must be enrolled in at least one on-campus class; with NJ COVID restrictions regarding on-campus programs, this requirement
	+ Students must complete a request for a CARES Act Grant Request form and provide a brief explanation of need (see application)

Note that the College continues to receive additional guidance on the distribution of funds. The criteria may be changed based on updated information from the Federal Government.

Methodology of Award

* + For spring and summer, a maximum award of $1,500 was established for full-time students, $1,200 for at least half-time students and $600 for less than part-time students. The College has established average awards in various categories to ensure some consistency in treating student requests.
	+ For fall 2020, a maximum award of $2,500 is available, prorated based on attendance.
	+ Applications were initially screened by the Financial Aid Office, which gathered additional information on requests if sufficient detail was not provided.
	+ Applicants that met the eligibility requirements (see above) were forwarded to the CARES Scholarship Committee on a rolling basis. The committee reviewed requests blindly (no names or identifiable student information was provided).
	+ The Committee determined the final CARES grant award. The Financial Aid office awarded the funds through the financial aid system, and transmitted this information to the Business Office.
	+ Checks were cut and mailed to students within days of receiving the Committee Award recommendations.
1. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Information regarding the Grants is provided under COVID announcements on the College home page. The CARES application is prominently displayed on this page. All students who applied for financial aid in spring 2020 also were sent an application.

The application includes basic information on how to complete the application. Students are instructed to submit an application or address any questions to CARES@Warren.edu.