**Warren County Community College**

**CARES Acknowledgement and Information (Updated 3/31/2021)**

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. A second round of CARES relief (CRRSAA) was approved in the Second Stimulus Act approved in December 2020.
2. The total amount of funds provided to students for distribution is $686,486. We anticipate that additional funding will be forthcoming through the American Stimulus Plan Act.
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed by WCCC to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:
   * 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
   * as of 3/32/2021 $414,629
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 was 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. With the expansion of funding and the expansion of eligibility, we anticipate that this number could reach over 1,000 students per fall and spring semester (up to 300 students per summer semester).
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
   * as of 3/31/2021: 335 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:

Current Eligibility for Award

* + Students must have filed a FAFSA for the current academic year
  + In circumstances, where a FAFSA can not be filed, the student can work with financial aid office to provide documentation of citizenship and draft registration (as required).
  + Students must be enrolled in at least one class;
  + Students must complete a request for a WCCC 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.

Award Availability

* + 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.
  + Beginning in Spring 2021, CARES can also be used to support tuition and fees. These funds are in excess of the maximum grant award.
  + All students interested in receiving funds must submit a CARES application.

Award Selection

* + Applications are initially screened by the Financial Aid Office, which gathers additional information on requests if sufficient detail was not provided.
  + Applicants that meet the eligibility requirements (see above) are forwarded to the CARES Scholarship Committee on a rolling basis. The committee reviewed requests blindly (no names or identifiable student information is provided).
  + Pell grant eligible students are considered as students with exceptional need and therefore considered as priority applicants. If sufficient funds are available for additional students, non-Pell grant recipients are considered. At this time, because of available funds, all applicants, regardless of need, have been considered.
  + The Committee determines the final CARES grant award.
  + The Financial Aid office awards the funds through the financial aid system, and transmitted this information to the Business Office.
  + The Business office processes and mails checks 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: By signing the application, students are certifying that they require funds for the stated purpose. For those requesting tuition and fee assistance, students have the option to have the funds directly deposited into their WCCC payment account.

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 since the program began in Spring 2020 have been notified about the availability of CARES as part of the Financial Aid application process.

The CARES application includes instructions on how to complete the application. Students are instructed to submit an application or address any questions to [CARES@Warren.edu](mailto:CARES@Warren.edu).