

**Southern Maine Community College  
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Report  
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

- 1) Southern Maine Community College will 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.
- 2) **Southern Maine Community College received \$1,448,649 on April 25, 2020** from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
- 3) Southern Maine Community College has distributed to students the amounts indicated below under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Report Date</b>	<b>Amount Distributed as of Report Date</b>
30 day report:	Monday, May 25, 2020	\$684,465.25
45 day report:	Thursday, July 9, 2020	
90 day report:	Sunday, August 23, 2020	
135 day report:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020	
180 day report:	Saturday, November 21, 2020	
225 day report:	Tuesday, January 5, 2021	
270 day report:	Friday, February 19, 2021	
315 day report:	Monday, April 5, 2021	
360 day report:	Thursday, May 20, 2021	

- 4) The estimated total number of students at Southern Maine Community College who are 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 are provided below:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Report Date</b>	<b>Est of Title IV Eligible Students</b>
30 day report:	Monday, May 25, 2020	3018
45 day report:	Thursday, July 9, 2020	
90 day report:	Sunday, August 23, 2020	
135 day report:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020	
180 day report:	Saturday, November 21, 2020	
225 day report:	Tuesday, January 5, 2021	
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- 5) The total number of Southern Maine Community College students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

<b>Report</b>	<b>Report Date</b>	<b>Number of Recipients as of Report Date</b>
30 day report:	Monday, May 25, 2020	523
45 day report:	Thursday, July 9, 2020	
90 day report:	Sunday, August 23, 2020	
135 day report:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020	
180 day report:	Saturday, November 21, 2020	
225 day report:	Tuesday, January 5, 2021	
270 day report:	Friday, February 19, 2021	
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- 6) Southern Maine Community College used the following methods to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

**a) For Round 1:**

- i) The college emailed degree seeking students who were enrolled for courses in the Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 terms who appeared to meet the general eligibility requirements to receive financial aid and encouraged them to apply. These students were notified by email on April 30 and May 4, 2020 (SMCC email and personal email) about the availability of funding and were encouraged to complete the on-line application before 11:59pm on May 7, 2020. The deadline was extended to Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at noon.
- ii) For those students who applied by the deadline, eligibility was confirmed and funds were awarded. The award amount was the lesser the student's request or \$2,500, in accordance with college administration policy.

**b) For Round 2:**

- i) The college identified students enrolled in the Summer 2020 term and appeared to meet the general eligibility requirements to receive financial aid. These student were notified by email on May 13, 2020 (SMCC email and personal email) about the availability of funding and were encouraged to complete the on-line application before 11:59pm on May 18, 2020. These students were also sent a text alerting them to the email.
- ii) For those students who applied by the deadline, eligibility was confirmed (including enrollment in Spring and Summer terms) and funds awarded. The award amount was the lesser of the student's request or \$2,500, in accordance with college administration policy.

- 7) Southern Maine Community College students who were enrolled and had completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and appeared to meet the US Department of Education's "[Basic Eligibility Criteria](#)" were sent the following email to their personal and SMCC student email addresses:

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Dear student –

The Federal CARES Act provides financial assistance for some students who incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

If you wish to apply for these funds, complete the on-line “Federal CARES Act Application” found on My Maine Guide > My Money in the “Quicklinks” section.

You must be currently enrolled and submit the application by (date and time) to be considered for funding in the first round of applications.

You will be notified of your eligibility by (date).

If you have any questions, email the SMCC Financial Aid Office at: [finaid@smccme.edu](mailto:finaid@smccme.edu)

*Students who were sent this email were also sent the following text:*

Please check your email – the SMCC Financial Aid Office sent you instructions about applying for Federal CARES Act funding. The deadline is next (date).

- 8) Students who completed the SMCC CARES Act Emergency Funds Request were provided with the following instructions, directions, and guidance when accessing the on-line application:

**CARES Act Emergency Funds Request**

CARES Act emergency funds are for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care expenses. CARES Act awards are grants (not loans).

**Eligibility Criteria**

Because CARES Act emergency funds are federally-funded, eligibility is restricted by the U.S. Department of Education to students who could file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet the general eligibility criteria below.

To be eligible, you must:

- Be currently enrolled in a degree or certificate program at the College;
- Have a high school diploma, home school diploma, or GED;
- Be making satisfactory academic progress;
- Not owe a refund on a federal Title IV education grant;
- Not be in default on a federal Title IV education loan;
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen;
- Not have fraudulently exceeded federal Title IV education loan limits;

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- Be registered with the Selective Service if male and required to register;
- Have a valid Social Security Number;
- Not have a federal or state conviction for using or distributing illegal drugs while receiving federal Title IV education assistance

Additionally, students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are not eligible to apply for funding. Also, to be considered for a grant for the summer, you must be enrolled at SMCC in the Summer 2020 term.

Completing this request form is not a guarantee of funding; each request will be reviewed and students will be notified of the status of their request.

Initial: May 21, 2020