



Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

1. Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed by president of Spartanburg Community College (SCC), on April 14, 2020. The certification was submitted via Grants.gov by the Director of Grants, on April 15, 2020 and was assigned the tracking number GRANT13071979. SCC received email notification from U.S. Department of Education on April 25, 2020 that a signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) for award P425E201615 was available for access via the G5 system. SCC's Financial Coordinator submitted a G5 payment request on April 29, 2020 in the amount of \$1,679,316.00 (50% of the funds allotted to SCC under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students with an assigned control number of 2020042995481. Funds were received by in the college's Federal Clearing Account on 04/30/2020.
2. Under the Federal Emergency Stimulus Funding (CARES Act) for Colleges and Universities, SCC received a total allocation of \$3,358,632. Of the total allocation \$1,679,316.00 was designated as the minimum allocation to be awarded for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. All funds were disbursed to student accounts as of May 5, 2020 with the total amount disbursement amount being \$1,679,430.90. Printed checks were mailed, and direct deposits were initiated on May 6, 2020.
4. The estimated total number of students at SCC that were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended were 2619 students.
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 2,619.
6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students received Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act were:
 - a. The college ran a report of all spring students who were enrolled in one or more credit hours as of March 16, 2020, which was the date South Carolina Governor McMasters' executive order required colleges to close to the public and move to an online instructional format due to COVID-19 outbreak. There were 4193 students enrolled in at least one credit hour or more.
 - b. Out of the group listed above 2619 were determined to be eligible to participated in Title IV aid programs and 1574 were not eligible.

- c. Based on the funding available, the college made a determination to award the eligible students based on the number of credit hours they were enrolled in as of March 16, 2020. Classes the student withdrew from prior to March 16, 2020 were not included in the total credit hours. Students were awarded \$60.24 per credit hour. The college felt the per credit hour amount would provide student funds to cover the expenses in proportion to the number of classes being taken. Students had between 1 and 20 credit hours.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants: See attached copy of an email that was provided to all students who received the grant, and the FAQ that was posted to the college's website

Below is a copy of the email that was sent to all students receiving the emergency assistance.

#####, Student Name

Dear Student,

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a Federal Law enacted by Congress on March 27, 2020, provides funds to assist qualified students in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. This assistance is known as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF or HEER fund). You have met the eligibility requirements to receive an HEERF disbursement. If you have set up direct deposit with the College, the funds will be sent to that designated account. Students not on direct deposit will be mailed a physical check to the address you have listed on your SCC student record.

Your HEERF disbursement amount is based on the number of credit hours you were enrolled in as of March 16, 2020, the day Governor McMaster issued an executive order requiring South Carolina colleges to close to the public and move to an online instructional format due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The credit hours from classes you withdrew from prior to March 16, 2020 will **NOT** be counted. Your HEERF disbursement will be calculated at a rate of \$60.24 per credit hour. The calculation of your disbursement amount is based on the information listed below. If you have a balance due on your student account, your HEERF disbursement **WILL NOT** be applied to that balance. You will be receiving the entire amount of the disbursement. Your direct deposit or check will be mailed during the week of May 4, 2020.

- Enrollment as of March 16, 2020: Number of Credit Hours
- HEERF Disbursement Amount: Dollar Amount of Disbursement

There is a statutory requirement that the HEER funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible expenses would include items under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. Students are not required to submit documentation on how the funds were used. Students are **STRONGLY** advised to maintain a personal record of how the funds were utilized and retain any receipts received from the spending of these funds. This information could be needed in the future should the government decide to audit the use of these funds.

For more information about the HEERF, please review the [CARES Act FAQ](#). If you have questions, please use the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Financial Aid Staff
Spartanburg Community College
FA-Questions@sccsc.edu
(864) 592-4810 or 1-888-591-3810
Dan L. Terhune Building Room 147

REF: FAREHEER



SCC Financial Aid Office Update: CARES Act Information

Updated 5-5-20

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a Federal Law enacted by Congress, provides funds to assist qualified students in need during the pandemic. This assistance is known as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Spartanburg Community College (SCC) curriculum students enrolled in the 2020 spring semester who meet the qualifications below, will receive a disbursement of the HEERF. If the student has set up direct deposit with the College, the funds will be sent to that designated account. Students not on direct deposit will be mailed a printed check. Should you have questions please use the contact information below.

For qualification questions, contact: (864) 592-4180 or FA-Questions@sccsc.edu

For disbursement questions, contact: (864) 592-4665 (leave message) or BusinessOffice@sccsc.edu

Q: Who qualifies for the CARES Act Funds?

A: To be eligible for a HEERF disbursement you must meet all the following criteria:

- 1) You must have been enrolled in curriculum courses for the 2020 spring semester at SCC as of March 16, 2020 - the day Governor McMasters' executive order required colleges to close to the public and move to an online instructional format due to COVID-19 outbreak. You are not considered to be enrolled in courses you withdrew from prior to March 16, 2020.
- 2) You must have completed a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and SCC must have received the results of your FAFSA by April 27, 2020.
- 3) Demonstrate you are eligible to participate in Federal Title IV aid programs by meeting ALL of the following requirements as of April 27, 2020:
 - a. Be a high school graduate, have a GED or be home-schooled in accordance with state law requirements.
 - b. Be either a US Citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
 - c. Have a valid Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number (eligible non-citizen).
 - d. Not be in default of any educational loans at any school attended.
 - e. Not owe a refund on grants at any school attended.
 - f. Be registered with Selective Service or demonstrate that registration is not required, as applicable. This is for male students only.
 - g. Be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program.
 - h. Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress in a course of study.
 - i.

Students who are **NOT** eligible for HEERF include but are not limited to:

- International students
- Dual enrollment students
- Transient students
- Non-degree seeking students
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students
- Students not eligible to participate in Title IV programs according to their FAFSA results

Q: How and when will I receive the disbursement?

A: Students who already have direct deposit established with the College will receive their emergency funds by direct deposit and if not, a check will be mailed to the address you have listed on your SCC record, at the College. Direct deposits or checks will be mailed to the students the week of May 4, 2020.

Q: How do I know how much I will be awarded?

A: Check your MySCC student portal account to view your disbursement amount. It will be listed as a financial aid award and will show up as Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Your award will be based on the number of credit hours you were enrolled in as of March 16, 2020. Any classes you withdrew from prior to March 16, 2020 will not be counted. Your HEERF disbursement will be calculated at a specific amount per credit hour. The per credit hour amount is currently in the process of being determined. An email will be sent to all SCC email address of all HEERF eligible students and will provide detailed disbursement information.

Q: How can I use the disbursement?

A: According to the U.S. Department of Education, HEERF can be used for expenses related to the cost of college attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. The HEERF regulations do not require you submit documentation of how the funds were used, but it is highly advisable you document how you spent the funds and keep any receipts for future reference.

Q: Will my disbursement be applied towards any outstanding balances I may still owe the College?

A: No. If you meet the eligibility requirements, your disbursement amount will **NOT** be applied to any outstanding balances you may owe the College.

Q: Will I be required to pay this money back?

A: No, this is a grant and you will not be required to pay it back.