

CARES 2

Southern Crescent Technical College CARES2 Act Grant Policy

Updated 3/5/2021

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19. The Act was updated 1/4/2021 with the passing of an additional emergency bill. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund and sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic. The CARES Act allows Southern Crescent Technical College to use its own “significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students.” The eligible expenses for this program are the same as those outlined in the federal financial aid calculations for determining a student’s cost of attendance. These items include food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

The college will receive an additional **\$1,956,144.00** in CARES2 and **\$7,701,728.00** in CARES3 student portion to distribute to enrolled eligible SCTC students. SCTC will begin to disburse these funds during the Spring 2021 term.

Eligible Students:

- Be enrolled in Spring 2021 for at least 1 hour
- Be a citizen or eligible non-citizen

Non-Eligible Students:

- Transient (visiting students)

About the Fund:

- Priority will be given to students eligible for federal Pell based on FAFSA data. CARES funding is limited and will be awarded based on the level of student need
- The award is a one-time disbursement per term
- CARES Act funds will be paid to eligible applicants until funds are exhausted
- The award is not a loan and does not have to be paid back
- Check your SCTC email for information to find out if you were approved

How the CARES2 Funds will be disbursed to students:

1. One-time Disbursement

The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted the College's students in a variety of ways creating financial hardships related to employment, housing, childcare, food, utilities, and medical expenses. To address these hardships, the College is providing its eligible spring term 2021 students, excluding International, DACA students, and transient students an emergency stipend to help relieve the financial hardship caused by COVID-19.

How Students are Identified for Spring 2021 Disbursements

The College used data from the 2020-2021 FAFSA to identify 3,834 currently enrolled students as eligible for the one-time disbursement totaling \$1,506,500.00. The student Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) determined which students were Pell eligible. These students were deemed to be most likely in need of financial assistance. The award amount will be calculated based on the number of credit hours in which students are enrolled during spring term 2021:

- Pell eligible (with zero EFC) Full- time students enrolled in 12 credit hours or more will receive \$600.00 grant award
- Pell eligible (with zero EFC) part-time students enrolled in 11-1 credit hours will receive a \$400.00 grant award
- Pell eligible students (EFC 1- 5711) will receive a \$350.00 grant award
- Students with EFC 5712 and higher (Non-Pell eligible students, including those without a 2020-2021 FAFSA on file) will receive a \$300.00 grant award

The following charts illustrate the aforementioned allotments

CARES2 Disbursement totals by Groups list above:

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Groups	Total Students (Spring)	Award Amount	Total
Zero EFC	625	\$600	\$375,000
Enrolled Full-time Zero EFC			
Enrolled 11-1 credit hours	1308	\$400	\$523,200
1-5711 EFC			
Pell eligible students EFC 5712 and higher	760	\$350	\$266,000
No EFC (no 2020- 2021 FAFSA)	1141	\$300	\$342,300

2. CARES Emergency Applications

The college will set aside the remaining \$449,644.00 CARES2 funds. These funds will be used for emergency grants to mitigate extenuating circumstances documented by a student emergency grant application. The emergency grant funds will be disbursed in the amount of \$224,822.00 for summer 2021 and \$224,822.00 for fall 2021. A CARES2 emergency application with an attestation substantiating the student has been adversely impacted by COVI 19 will be required. A onetime \$500 grant will be available to eligible students on a first come first served basis per semester. To apply for CARES2 emergency funding, students will be required to complete a [CARES emergency application](#):

- CARES Emergency Funds will be awarded based on student's statement of need for funds to cover COVID-19 related expenses or expenses no longer covered due to COVID-19 related loss of income.
- CARES Emergency awards will be granted for a minimum of \$500.00.
- Students can only apply once.
- Student can choose to use Emergency CARES2 funds toward an outstanding balance.

CARES2

Total CARES2 Allocated to SCTC	Spring One Time Disbursements	Emergency Grant	Emergency Grant
		Applications Summer 2021	Applications Fall 2021
\$1,956,144.00	\$1,506,500	\$224,822	\$224,822

Emergency CARES2 funds not disbursed summer 2021 will roll over to fall of 2021

Please see the questions below for details on applying for these emergency aid programs.

When will CARES2/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds be available?

The college will begin awarding CARES2 the week of March 8, 2021, refunds will begin March 19, 2021. Recipients will be notified via a message to their SCTC email account if awarded CARES2 funds. **Students registered for spring 2021 classes and fall into one of the identified groups above, will receive these funds automatically!**

How will I receive my CARES2 Funds?

BankMobile is the official Southern Crescent Technical College Refund Disbursement Processor. Students are expected to activate the BankMobile "refund selection" to choose how they wish to receive refund disbursements from Southern Crescent Technical College. There are multiple options provided for choosing how to receive refunds. Students can choose to have funds transferred to an existing bank account, receive a paper check or choose to receive your funds electronically by direct deposit into your BankMobile account, in which you will receive a BankMobile card for purchases. All refunds are processed through the BankMobile Disbursement Process.

To learn more about the Southern Crescent Technical College partnership with Bank Mobile, you can view our [contract here](#).

CARES Administrator: Dr. Michelle Bedford

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The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet.

Students cannot apply for assistance directly from the U.S. Department of Education but should contact their institutions for further information and guidance. Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant.

Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) signed and returned the Cares Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) certification and agreement form to the Department of Education (DOE), and agrees to promptly make available at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students from the advanced funds directly to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses. The institution shall not use the advanced funds to reimburse itself for any costs or expenses, including but not limited to any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus and/or any refunds or other benefits that the institution previously issued to students.

The college received its student portion of **\$1,956,144.00**

In compliance with the HEERF agreement, SCTC has disbursed to date **\$1,837,825.00** to its Cares eligible students.

The CARES Act Legislation:

The CARES Act allows Southern Crescent Technical College to use its own “significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students.” The only statutory requirement is that students use the funds for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 and that students are eligible to complete a FAFSA application and are not exclusively enrolled in distance education courses. The eligible expenses for this program are the same as those outlined in the federal financial aid calculations for determining a student’s cost of attendance. These items include food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

Southern Crescent Technical College CARES Act Grant Proposals

The CARES Act Legislation:

The CARES Act allows Southern Crescent Technical College to use its own “significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students.” The only statutory requirement is that students use the funds for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 and that students are eligible to complete a FAFSA application and are not exclusively enrolled in distance education courses. The eligible expenses for this program are the same as those outlined in the federal financial aid calculations for determining a student’s cost of attendance. These items include food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

SCTC's Approved Advanced Fund Allotment (student portion): \$1,956,144.00

- Must be direct cash payments (refunds) to the students
- Reporting required 30 days after certification and every 45 days thereafter
 - How grants were calculated
 - Instructions provided to students
- Secretary DeVos suggests prioritizing students with the greatest need, distributing funds quickly and widely
- Distribute funds within 1 year of date of agreement

Proposed Administrator: Dr. Michelle Bedford

Rationale:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted the College's students in a variety of ways creating financial hardships related to employment, housing, childcare, food, utilities, and medical expenses. To address these hardships, the College is providing its eligible spring term 2020 students, excluding non-resident aliens, DACA students, dual enrollment, distance education (online-only), students who have loans in defaulted/overpayment status, students who were only enrolled in a part of term that ended prior to 3/13/2020, students who have unresolved verification requirements, and transient students an emergency stipend to help relieve the financial hardship caused by COVID-19.

Qualified students must meet the following requirements: be enrolled after March 13, in at least 1 credit hour, eligible for Title IV funding, must have a 19/20 ISIR on file, and cannot have any C codes (no outstanding verification requirements).

The award amount will be calculated based on the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled in during spring and summer terms 2020. Full-time students enrolled in 12 credit hours or more will receive \$650.00, part-time students enrolled in 9-11 credit hours will receive a \$500.00 award and students enrolled in 8 credit hours or less will receive a \$325.00 grant. The spring disbursement equates to approximately 65% of the advanced fund allotment or student portion. Additionally, approximately 25% of the advanced fund allotment or student portion will be disbursed to summer term 2020 students who were enrolled during spring term 2020 and the remaining funds will be used for emergency grants to mitigate extenuating circumstances documented by a student emergency grant application. Funds that are not expended, in these categories, by the end of the grant period, may be reallocated to new students who were encouraged to complete a FAFSA, but were not included in the first cohort or previously eligible students. A new student, for the purposes of this plan, is one who had not completed a FAFSA and did not receive an initial award, but was otherwise eligible and since completed a FAFSA.

The Emergency Grant fund will be disbursed to current fall term 2020 students who are eligible for Title IV federal aid. An application with an attestation substantiating the student has been adversely impacted by COVID 19 will be required. A one-time \$500 grant will be available to eligible students on a first come first served basis.

