

## CARES Act Funding-South Georgia Technical College

As provided in the CARES Act legislation, the U.S. Dept of Education has authorized emergency financial aid to students through the CARES Act to address financial needs due to the disruption of campus operations from COVID-19. Students are eligible for the CARES Act funding if they meet the specific criteria according to the guidance released from the U.S. Department of Education. For the full CARES Act legislation, please visit: <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/s3548/BILLS-116s3548is.pdf>

For a summary of eligibility guidance from the U. S. Department of Education, please visit: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf>

South Georgia Technical College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education on April 22, 2020 for the CARES Act Grant in the amount of \$935,054 to be distributed to eligible students.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Students who have been impacted by Covid-19 according to the College's Qualifying Emergency Policy
- Students enrolled as of March 16th, 2020 will be eligible to receive funds
- Students will not be required to complete an application for funding
- Students who are Title IV eligible and were enrolled after March 16th in at least one (1) credit hour in a program that leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree
- South Georgia Technical College has an ISIR for the 2019-2020 award year
- The student's ISIR does not have any outstanding verification requirements (No Comment Codes/Flags).
- The student has met all admission requirements including; HS, GED or equivalency or passed ATB.
- The student's Spring Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is under an eligible status (Good Standing, Warning, or an approved SAP appeal)
- Students enrolled in Summer Semester (202016) must have been enrolled Spring Semester (202014)

Exclusions:

- Dual Enrolled
- DACA
- Foreign Students
- Any student who withdrew from all classes Spring semester (202014) prior to March 16th, 2020
- Transient Students
- Students with defaulted student loans, overpayments or other loan eligibility restrictions
- Students who were enrolled only in a part-of-term (POT) that ended prior to March 16th
- Students who were enrolled exclusively in distance education for the spring semester

## **Distribution:**

Total eligible student population for Spring Semester 2020 (202014): 919

Estimated Distribution:

- |   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| 1. Full Time Spring 2020 (571 eligible students)  |   |                |
| \$900 disbursement (\$900 x 571)  |   | \$513,900      |
| 2. Part Time Spring 2020 (348 eligible students)  |   |                |
| \$450 disbursement (\$450 x 348)  | + | <u>156,600</u> |
|   |   | \$670,500      |
| 3. Remaining funds to eligible Summer Semester 2020 students  | + | <u>264,554</u> |
| Funds will be disbursed with Full time students receiving 2 times the amount of Part time Students. |   | \$935,054      |

**Rationale:** The College's response to COVID-19 began on March 13, 2020 around the same time that National and State Executive Orders were placing restrictions on individuals in relation to work, access to services, and education. All students enrolled in at least 1 class at the time the college moved to distance education were affected by reduced access to student services due to college campus closures, at the same time as being affected by the state of emergency declarations, stay at home orders, and resulting issues as defined in the college's definition of a qualifying emergency. The college's part-time/full-time distribution of funds to the student's deemed eligible according to the Department of Education's guidance is suggested to weight aid to full-time students more heavily than part-time students. The college believes that Spring semester students were affected to the greater extent than those enrolled for Summer semester and had little time to prepare and adjust to the fluidity of the situation and thus should receive a greater distribution of the College's allocated resources. The college believes that by Summer semester, students were more acclimated to the COVID-19 environment and the adjustments required by the students were not as drastic as those experienced by the students enrolled in Spring semester. All Summer semester students must meet eligibility requirements and must have been enrolled in Spring semester 2020.

## **Awarding and Disbursing Emergency Funds to Students**

1. Funds will be awarded and disbursed, by the Office of Financial Aid, onto student accounts using the CARES Act fund code identified by TCSG.
2. Each student account will show a credit balance. CARES Act funds cannot be automatically used to cover tuition and fees. This will generate a refund.
3. The Business Office will upload credit balance to BankMobile for release to the students.