

Quarterly report for the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

October 8, 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted by Congress on March 27, 2020 provides for a two-part allocation to institutions of higher education. Funds from the student-portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provide direct grant aid to FAFSA-eligible students whose education at MPCC was impacted by the coronavirus.

In compliance with CARES Act reporting requirements, MPCC is reporting the use of funds distributed from the HEERF.

1. On April 13, 2020, MPCC signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and assurance the institution has used, or intends to 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. On April 28, 2020, MPCC received **\$387,473** from the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. MPCC has awarded **\$236,900** of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to eligible students under Section 18004 (a)(1) of the CARES Act (as of 9/30/20)
4. Approximately 808 enrolled students at MPCC 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 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
5. As of September 30, 2020, **250** students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
6. MPCC used the following method to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act:
 - a. Students eligible to receive funding from the Emergency Financial Aid Grants must be currently enrolled at MPCC, have a valid FAFSA on file at MPCC, and qualify for Title IV funding based on Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Students who are considered international students, students enrolled in non-credit courses, and student enrolled in only online courses are not eligible for Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
 - b. Students must complete and submit the Application for CARES Act Stabilization Funds available on the MPCC website and must provide an explanation generalizing the educational hardships incurred as a result of COVID-19.
 - c. Applications are reviewed to ensure student applicants meet funding eligibility requirements, documented costs incurred after March 13, 2020, and requested funds are related to campus closures as stipulated.

- d. Qualified student applicants received funding disbursements based on the number of enrolled credit hours. Initial disbursements issued through June 16, 2020 were issued on the following maximum payment schedule:
 - i. \$400 per full-time student
 - ii. \$300 per $\frac{3}{4}$ student
 - iii. \$200 per $\frac{1}{2}$ student
 - iv. \$100 per part-time student

Beginning June 16, 2020, new applicants received disbursements following the new payment schedule detailed below. Applicants from the initial applicant pool prior to June 16, 2020 who remained eligible for the program received an additional disbursement to reach a combined total equal to the new payment schedule amounts. The maximum payment schedule through September 30, 2020 was as follows:

- i. \$1,200 per full-time student
- ii. \$900 per $\frac{3}{4}$ student
- iii. \$600 per $\frac{1}{2}$ student
- iv. \$300 per part-time student

7. Access to the Emergency Funds Application is maintained on the MPCC website. Accompanying the online application form, the MPCC website further provides information on the CARES ACT Student Emergency Financial Aid eligibility guidelines. All currently enrolled MPCC students received an email from the MPCC Director of Accounting and an additional email was distributed to Title IV eligible student from the MPCC Director of Financial Aid. Both emails provided guidance to accessing the online application and encouraged eligible students to complete the application. Applications selected to receive a second disbursement of emergency funds also received a letter of guidance for funding distribution.

- 1) MPCC Application for CARES Act Stabilization Funds
- 2) Distribution Letter