

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
Student Portion Quarterly Report
June 30, 2021

Acknowledgement of Signed Certification and Agreement

On April 27th, 2020 SMC signed and submitted to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement with the assurance that we intend to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Total Amount of Funds SMC Will Receive

In the initial CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) allocation, SMC received a total of \$761,058 from the Department for emergency grants to students who have had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

In the subsequent Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), SMC received an additional \$761,058 to award as emergency grants to students.

In the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III), SMC received \$2,601,083 to award as emergency grants to students.

Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants Distributed

As of March 31, 2021, SMC has completed the distribution of the \$761,058 received in the student portion of the CARES Act.

As of June 30, 2021, SMC has completed the distribution of the \$761,058 received in the student portion of the CRRSA Act

For the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, SMC distributed \$472,750 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants, \$420,666 from CRRSAA funds and \$52,084 from ARP funds. As of June 30, 2021, SMC has awarded a total of \$1,574,200 to students.

Estimated Number of Students Eligible to Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants

Approximately 966 students enrolled in the Spring and/or Summer 2020 semesters, and approximately 979 students enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester at SMC were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible for emergency grants. This eligibility was based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), requiring the following:

- * student was enrolled in a financial-aid eligible degree or certificate program
- * student filed a 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with SMC and was eligible for federal financial aid
- * student was meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements for financial aid recipients

Upon receipt of additional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II) authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), eligibility was expanded to include non-degree seeking and Title IV ineligible students. Approximately 1,639 students enrolled in the Spring 2021 semester were eligible to receive emergency grants. Approximately 526 students enrolled in the Summer 2021 semester were eligible.

Total Number of Students Who Have Received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant

As of June 30, 2021, SMC has distributed emergency grants to 1272 students.

Methods Used to Determine Which SMC Students Receive a Grant Award and The Amount of That Award

SMC used an application-based method of determining students who were eligible for HEERF I emergency grants. Students who had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus were able to indicate which eligible expenses they incurred including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. Award amounts were calculated as \$250 per category, up to a maximum of \$750. Students who received or will receive a Pell Grant in the current award year were given an additional \$250 for a maximum amount of \$1,000.

The CARES Act Emergency Grant Application was located in SMC Wired. A link to the application was emailed directly to Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 students who were determined to be eligible based on the criteria previously outlined. A confirmation email was sent to each student upon submission of the application. A follow-up email was sent within two weeks of the application stating whether or not the student was eligible, and if so, the calculated amount of the emergency grant. Students were advised to set up direct deposit, or verify their address on file.

Based on available funds, the decision was made to allow students to receive a second CARES Act Emergency Grant for the Fall 2020 semester, provided that all eligibility requirements are met, and that the student reports additional or ongoing expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Application information was sent to all eligible students on September 21, 2020. Award amounts were calculated by the same formula used in previous semesters.

SMC received notification of HEERF II funds on January 14, 2021. The CRRSA Act requires schools to prioritize students with exceptional need, and allows grant funds to be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency expenses that arise due to coronavirus. Students no longer need to be Title IV eligible to receive emergency grants.

In order to prioritize students with exceptional need, SMC automatically disbursed a \$600 grant to all Pell-eligible students who were enrolled in the Spring 2021 semester. An email notification to the recipients was sent on February 15, 2021. Students who were not Pell-eligible were able to request a \$500 emergency grant using an application on SMC Wired. A link to the application was emailed to all degree-seeking students who had not yet received a grant in the Spring 2021 semester on March 23, 2021. On April 27, 2021, an email was sent to all non-degree seeking students notifying them of their ability to apply for an emergency grant.

SMC received notification of HEERF III funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) on May 16, 2021. In guidance issued on May 11, 2021, the Department of Education released a final rule on student eligibility for HEERF grants stating that all students enrolled in an institution during the COVID-19 national emergency are eligible, regardless of whether they completed a FAFSA or are eligible for Title IV. Institutions must still prioritize students with exceptional need.

SMC distributed emergency grants to all students enrolled in the Summer 2021 semester on June 29, 2021, with the exception of students in consortium agreements with SMC's university partners. Students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) between 0 and 6000 received a grant in the amount of \$1000, students with an EFC between 6001 and 10,000 received \$750, and students with no FAFSA or an EFC greater than 10,000 received \$500.

Communication to Students Regarding Emergency Grants

Email Sent to Spring/ Summer 2020 Eligible Students

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with emergency grant funding to be distributed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. An application for this grant is now available on SMC Wired

at <https://forms.swmich.edu/smc-cares-grant>. At this time, only students who have filed a FAFSA, are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are making Satisfactory Academic Progress can receive an emergency grant. The amount will be based on the types of emergency financial aid need and prior known financial need. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted.

If you have any questions about the CARES Act Emergency Grant Application, email the financial aid office at finaid@swmich.edu, or call 269-782-1316.

CARES Grant Application Text

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be providing Southwestern Michigan College with emergency grant funding to be distributed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. This application will allow SMC to determine your eligibility for these funds. At this time, only students who have filed a 2019-20 FAFSA, are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are making Satisfactory Academic Progress can receive an emergency grant. The amount will be based on type of emergency financial aid need and prior known financial need. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted. Dual enrolled high school and Early Middle College students are not eligible for the spring semester, and Ferris State and MSU Consortium students should seek opportunities at those institutions.

Emergency grants may not be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC, and will be disbursed directly to students. Receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that a student does not owe an outstanding balance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PAYMENT

The fastest way to receive your emergency grant is through direct deposit. If you have not set up your direct deposit bank account information through the Bill and Payment Center on SMC Wired, please do so by clicking on "[Bill and Payment Center](#)" in Wired and selecting "Refunds" from the menu at the top. Please note that direct deposit set up may take several days depending on your banking institution, so it is important to do so as soon as possible. Please be sure we have your correct address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.

Submission Confirmation Email:

The Financial Aid office has received your application for the SMC CARES grant. You will receive a response to your application in 5-10 business days. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact us at 269-782-1316 or email us at finaid@swmich.edu

Email Sent to Grant Recipients

SMC received your application for a CARES Act emergency grant for educational expenses incurred due to the Coronavirus shut down of campus operations. A grant in the amount of \$____ will be disbursed to you within the next two weeks.

If you've set up direct deposit, the funds will be deposited into your bank account. If you do not have direct deposit, a paper check will be mailed to the address we have on file for you. Questions about direct deposit can be sent to ecashier@swmich.edu.

Emergency grants may not be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC, and will be disbursed directly to students. Receipt of an emergency grant does not necessarily mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a current or future semester of enrollment.

I sincerely hope you and your family are safe and well during this extraordinary time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Email Sent to Fall 2020 Eligible Students

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with emergency grant funding to be distributed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. An application for this grant is available on SMC Wired at <https://forms.swmich.edu/smc-cares-grant>. At this time, only students who have filed a FAFSA and completed all verification requirements, are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are making Satisfactory Academic Progress can receive an emergency grant.

The amount will be based on the types of emergency financial aid need and prior known financial need. High school dual-enrolled, early middle college, and guest students are not eligible. Ferris State and MSU Consortium students should seek opportunities at those institutions. Recipients must be US citizens or federal student aid eligible non-citizens. Recipients must not have a federal loan in default status.

Students who received a grant in a previous semester may still be eligible for fall. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted.

If you have any questions about the CARES Act Emergency Grant Application, email the financial aid office at finaid@swmich.edu, or call 269-783-2143.

Email Sent to Spring 2021 Pell Recipients

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students

for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation.

*As a Pell grant recipient for the Spring 2021 semester, SMC is giving you priority qualification for these emergency funds. A grant in the amount of \$600 will be automatically disbursed to you within the next two weeks. These funds will **not** be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC but rather will come to you as a direct deposit or check in the mail. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a past, current, or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these emergency funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

*The fastest way to receive your emergency grant is through direct deposit. If you have not set up your direct deposit bank account information through the Bill and Payment Center in SMC Wired, please do so by clicking on **Bill and Payment Center** from the Student Resources tab in Wired and selecting Refunds from the menu at the top. Please note that direct deposit set-up may take several days depending on your banking institution, so it is important to do so as soon as possible. Please be sure we have your correct address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.*

Please be aware that other fellow SMC students who did not receive a Pell grant this semester will have access to these emergency funds through a different process. Those students will be informed of the appropriate application process in the near future. For you as a current Pell recipient, the automatic disbursement process outlined above takes the place of the application process.

If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the financial aid office at finaid@swmich.edu.

Email Sent to Spring 2021 Non-Pell Recipients

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation. An application is available on SMC Wired for students to apply for these funds (up to a maximum of \$500) in the current semester.

<https://swmich.secure.force.com/form/?formid=217743>

At this time, only students who are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are a US citizen or non-citizen eligible to file a FAFSA, can receive an emergency grant. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted. Dual-enrolled high school and Early Middle College students are not eligible, and Ferris State and MSU Consortium

students should seek opportunities at those institutions. Students who received a grant in the fall semester are eligible to apply for these additional funds.

If you have any questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@swmich.edu.

CRRSAA Grant Application Text

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, course fees, or transportation. This application will allow SMC to determine your eligibility for these funds up to a maximum of \$500 per student.

At this time, only students who are enrolled in an eligible degree program at SMC, and are a US citizen or non-citizen eligible to file a FAFSA, can receive an emergency grant. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted. Dual-enrolled high school and Early Middle College students are not eligible, and Ferris State and MSU Consortium students should seek opportunities at those institutions.

*Students who received a Pell grant for the current Spring 2021 semester automatically qualify for an emergency grant and funds will be sent directly to those students. **If you received a Pell grant in the current semester, you do not need to fill out this application to receive funds.** Check your student account information in the Bill and Payment Center on SMC Wired to confirm if you were a recipient of Pell funds this semester.*

Emergency grants will be disbursed directly to students. These funds may not be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that a student does not owe an outstanding balance for a past, current, or future semester bill. The student is responsible for using these funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.

Grant Application

*This grant is intended to help students with expenses that may impact their ability to attend college during the pandemic. **Please check the box to confirm that you need additional support in one or more of the following categories:***

- *I am requesting support for one or more of the following expenses: food, housing, technology, tuition, course materials, transportation, health care, child care*

At this time, only US citizens, permanent residents, or others who are eligible to file a FAFSA can receive a CRRSA Act grant. Please confirm your citizenship status below (MUST CHOOSE ONE).

- *I am a US citizen.*
- *I am a permanent resident (with a Permanent Resident Card) or other Federal Student Aid eligible non-citizen.*
- *I am not a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.*

Important Information About Payment

*The fastest way to receive your emergency grant is through direct deposit. If you have not set up your direct deposit bank account information through the Bill and Payment Center in SMC Wired, please do so by clicking on **Bill and Payment Center** from the Student Resources tab in Wired and selecting Refunds from the menu at the top. Please note that direct deposit set-up may take several days depending on your banking institution, so it is important to do so as soon as possible. Also, please be sure we have your correct address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.*

If you have any questions, please contact the financial aid office at finaid@swmich.edu.

Emails Sent to Summer 2021 Grant Recipients

EFC 0-6000:

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation.

*Based on your FAFSA information for the 2020/2021 school year, SMC is awarding you priority qualification for these emergency funds. A grant in the amount of \$1000 will be automatically disbursed to you within the next two weeks. These funds will **not** be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC but rather will come to you as a direct deposit or check in the mail. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a current or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these emergency funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

Please be sure we have your correct mailing address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.

If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@swmich.edu.

EFC 6001-10,000:

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation.

*Based on your FAFSA information for the 2020/2021 school year, SMC is awarding you a grant in the amount of \$750. It will be automatically disbursed to you within the next two weeks. These funds will **not** be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC but rather will come to you as a direct deposit or check in the mail. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a current or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these emergency funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

Please be sure we have your correct mailing address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.

If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@swmich.edu.

EFC >10,000 or no FAFSA on file:

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation.

*SMC is awarding you a grant in the amount of \$500. It will be automatically disbursed to you within the next two weeks. These funds will **not** be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC but rather will come to you as a direct deposit or check in the mail. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a current or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these emergency funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

Please be sure we have your correct mailing address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.

If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@swmich.edu.