

Red Rocks Community College  
CARES/HEERF Reporting  
Draft August 15, 2020

The Department would like to receive the most current information from the date when the institution received its allocation for emergency financial aid grants to students, and the institution should have received its allocation within a few days after submitting the Certification and Agreement. Accordingly, the following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter:

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that 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.

*Red Rocks Community College signed the assurance and submitted on April 20, 2020. We have put a policy and procedure in place to assure 50% of the funds received are used to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.*

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

*\$1,574,509 was received in G5 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. As of August 15, 2020, \$441,037.08 of that has been drawn down upon by the institution.*

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every 45 days thereafter).

*As of August 15th, 2020, Red Rocks Community College has distributed \$441,900.08 to students.*

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution 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 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

*4,018 students are estimated to be eligible under Section 484 in Title IV.*

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.

*As of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 1,483 students have received Emergency Financial Aid grant funds.*

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

#### RRCC CARES Act Emergency Funding Plan

RRCC has sent an email to all students who are eligible to apply for emergency funding. There are two applications: a scholarship application for either Summer or Fall 2020 semester, and an emergency fund application for an immediate financial need that has arisen **as a direct result of the disruption of campus operations** during the Spring 2020 semester.

Amounts of awards are pre-determined based on the total number of applicants and the total amount of emergency funds RRCC was given by the US Department of Education. Applicants will be reviewed for their eligibility (requirements listed below), and awards will be posted as follows:

- a. Summer scholarships will be released to eligible students by June 15<sup>th</sup>, the summer financial aid disbursement date. Fall scholarships will be released to eligible students by September 14<sup>th</sup>, the fall financial aid disbursement date.
- b. Emergency funds will be released to eligible students as soon as possible, and in two waves. The first disbursement will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Any remaining funds will be automatically released to eligible students after the June 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.

Funds will be released to students through their preferred refund method as established with BankMobile. Preferred refund methods are available through the BankMobile button in The Rock student portal. Students may use the funds to pay an outstanding balance. Funds will never be applied to an outstanding balance and will be issued directly to students regardless of any amount owed to the school.

Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Eligibility to apply for financial aid:
  - Citizen or eligible non-citizen status
  - Registered for Selective Service (students who were assigned male at birth)
  - Making satisfactory academic progress
  - In good standing with regard to previous federal aid received
  - Degree or certificate-seeking
- Enrolled at RRCC as of March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Enrolled in at least one on-campus class (not all online classes) as of March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Students will receive an email with the decision on their application. Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements for CARES Act funding will automatically be considered for any available emergency aid through the RRCC Housing and Food Insecurity Council.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

The following email was sent to 4,018 students who were identified as potentially qualifying for CARES Act funds. Title IV eligibility is determined after a student applies.

Dear Student,

This has been a very trying semester for our communities, and Red Rocks Community College recognizes your perseverance and hard work. We sincerely care about your well-being both within and outside of the classroom, and we are grateful for this opportunity to provide emergency funds to our qualifying students in need.

You are receiving this email because you are eligible to apply for emergency funding if you have a financial need as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. If needed, we encourage you to complete the appropriate application below.

In order to be approved to receive these funds, you must meet the eligibility requirements to apply for financial aid. Your eligibility will be reviewed by RRCC and, if you qualify, funds will be sent to you using your preferred refund method through BankMobile within our weekly refund process. It can take up to a week for the refund to be at Bankmobile once the funds show on your account.

### **Funding Request Options**

1. Scholarships – to request funding to help cover the cost of Summer or Fall 2020 semester classes, [apply here](#).
2. Emergency funds – to request funding to cover an expense that you have as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, [apply here](#). The deadline to apply for this first round of emergency funding is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

If you have questions about your refund preferences, please contact the RRCC Cashier's Office at [RRCC.CashiersOffice@rrcc.edu](mailto:RRCC.CashiersOffice@rrcc.edu). You may direct questions about your eligibility to the Financial Aid Office at [financial.aid@rrcc.edu](mailto:financial.aid@rrcc.edu).

### **RRCC CARES Act Emergency Funds Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

#### **Q. Do I qualify for emergency funds?**

A. In order to qualify, you must meet the eligibility requirements to apply for financial aid. Eligible students meet all of these criteria:

- Have a financial need as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19
- Enrolled at RRCC for the Spring 2020 semester on or after March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Enrolled in at least one on-campus class (both Lakewood and Arvada campuses qualify) during Spring 2020 (students enrolled in all online classes do not qualify)
- US citizen or eligible non-citizen (DACA/ASSET recipients and international students do not qualify for these funds, but can apply for general emergency funds and scholarships)
- Have completed high school or its equivalent
- Registered with Selective Service (male students only)
- Meet financial aid eligibility requirements, including satisfactory academic progress and being in good standing with regard to prior federal student aid (not in student loan default and do not owe a federal grant overpayment to the Department of Education)

**Q. Where do I apply?**

A. There are two types of funds. One is a scholarship fund, intended to help cover the cost of Spring, Summer, or Fall 2020 courses, and one is a general emergency fund to help with costs like housing, food, technology, healthcare, childcare, or course materials, that you may have as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

**Scholarships** - To request a scholarship to help cover the cost of Summer or Fall 2020 classes, [use this application](#). This would include help with covering the difference between online and on-campus course costs for Summer 2020, or assisting with the cost of retaking a class from which you had to withdraw in Spring 2020. It can also be used to help cover qualifying costs like housing, food, childcare, healthcare, technology, or course materials during those terms.

**Emergency Funds** - To request emergency funds to cover an expense you have as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, including housing, food, childcare, healthcare, course materials, technology [use this application](#).

**Q. What is the deadline to apply?**

A. June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 is the deadline to apply for the first round of emergency funding. December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is the deadline to apply for the scholarship fund.

**Q. How will I receive the funds, if I qualify?**

A. Both types of emergency funds will be released to you during our weekly refund process using the refund preference method that you have set up with BankMobile. If you have not set up refund preferences with BankMobile, after 5-7 days, a paper check will be mailed to the address you have on file with Bankmobile, so please ensure your address is current with them. These funds **will not** automatically pay a balance that you may owe the school. If you need funding to pay for your tuition/fees balance, you will need to use your refund to pay your balance. If you have an outstanding balance for the Spring term your account will remain on hold and you will have until August 31, 2020 to pay your balance in full.

**Q. What kind of documentation do I need to submit when I apply?**

B. No documentation is required for you to apply to either source of funding other than the application.

**Q. Who can I talk to if I have questions?**

A. For questions about your refund preference, contact the RRCC Cashier's Office at [RRCC.CashiersOffice@rrcc.edu](mailto:RRCC.CashiersOffice@rrcc.edu). For questions about your eligibility, contact the Financial Aid Office at [financial.aid@rrcc.edu](mailto:financial.aid@rrcc.edu).

**Q. How much will I receive?**

A. Amounts will be determined based on your need, the number of credits you were taking at RRCC in Spring 2020, and the amount of funding available. Your refund may not be enough to meet your entire need. However, we hope it can help and that we can provide assistance to as many of our students as possible.

**Q. Do I need to be registered in the Summer or Fall semester to receive my scholarship?**

A. No. If you select Summer or Fall to receive your scholarship, it will not be contingent on registration. You will receive the scholarship through your preferred refund method regardless of registration.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Red Rocks Community College