

## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Emergency Funds

The [CARES Act](#) allocated emergency grant funds to colleges, including Suffolk County Community College, to support students and institutions with expenses and financial needs related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The College qualified to receive a total of \$13.1 million through the CARES Act. Half of this total (\$6.5 million) is dedicated to student support through emergency grants, and half is dedicated to institutional relief.

### Who is eligible to apply to receive CARES Act student grants?

In accordance with current guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), only students who are or could be eligible to participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs may receive CARES Act emergency grants. In the simplest terms, Title IV eligibility means that a student has filed or is eligible to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

In order to receive CARES Act emergency grants, students must also have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as:

- Food
- Housing
- Course materials (books and supplies)
- Technology needs (such as having to purchase a computer or Internet access when courses moved to remote instruction)
- Healthcare
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Other eligible expenses

In accordance with SUNY guidelines, the College will allocate and disburse a portion of CARES Act emergency grant funds on a priority basis to students with the greatest financial need—that is, federal Pell Grant Recipients.

In addition, the College is providing all Title IV eligible students who have been impacted by COVID-19 with an opportunity to apply for CARES Act emergency grant funds by submitting a simple application through the student portal.

### If I was a Pell Grant Recipient during the Spring 2020 semester, how do I request a CARES Act emergency grant? How do I know if I was a Pell Grant Recipient?

The College contacted all Spring 2020 Pell Grant Recipients by email on or about June 3, 2020 to notify them of their eligibility to request priority CARES Act emergency grants and to provide them with instructions on how to request their grant through the student portal. If you did not receive this email and believe you were a Pell Grant Recipient for the Spring 2020 semester, please contact your Campus Financial Aid Office.

**If I was not a Spring 2020 Pell Grant Recipient but I am Title IV eligible, how do I apply to receive a CARES Act emergency grant?**

Students who are not Pell Grant Recipients, but who have unexpected expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 as outlined above are eligible to submit an application for a CARES Act emergency grant. This application is available in the student portal.

**How will I be notified that I have been awarded a CARES Act emergency grant, and how will I receive the funds?**

All students who apply will be notified of their eligibility, the amount of their CARES Act emergency grant award, and any instructions for obtaining the funds, including payment may be made by the College via check mailed to the permanent address on file for the student, or electronic transfer to a student's personal bank account or SCCC/BankMobile checking account.

**Do I need to repay the CARES Act emergency grant?**

No, these are grant funds, not loans, which do not have to be repaid.

**If I am not Title IV eligible and cannot apply for a CARES Act emergency grant, are there other forms of emergency financial assistance I can request?**

Yes! Through generous donor support, the Suffolk Community College Foundation (Foundation) has established a COVID-19 Emergency Fund to provide financial assistance to students with financial need as a result of COVID-19. In addition, the Foundation may be able to refer students in need to other existing Foundation hardship funds. Students can access hardship funds when they need to quickly address pressing healthcare issues, homelessness, food insecurity, utility termination, or other critical financial crises. Students may complete the Foundation's [COVID-19 Fund Application](#) to request assistance.