

## **Miami Dade College Funding Progress Report**

### **CARES ACT**

This Report is provided to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education in an effort to comply with the reporting guidelines based on the criteria identified in the Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act, executed by Miami Dade College (MDC) on April 13, 2020. On May 6, 2020, Federal Student Aid issued guidance that indicated, in part, that "[t]he Department will provide instructions for providing the required information to the Secretary in the near future." No such instructions have been provided as of this date, so this Report serves as MDC's good faith effort to comply with all reporting requirements under the Certification and Agreement.

#### **Miami Dade College Program Overview**

Spring/Summer Program:

The method used by MDC to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act has been based on the instructions and guidance provided in the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Federal Student Aid, the Certification and Agreement completed by MDC, the April 9, 2020 letter of Secretary DeVos, and subsequent guidance issued by ED. MDC's program was also developed in consultation with external legal counsel to ensure compliance with all aspects of the CARES Act.

Consistent with this guidance, instructions and limitations, and the discretion specifically granted to higher education institutions therein, MDC is using a phased application process that prioritizes the students with the greatest need who also meet Title IV eligibility criteria. The application that MDC has developed also requires each student to attest that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, as required by the Act. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received, grant amounts will be closely tied to a student's Pell status and are indicated below. A brief description of each phase follows:

- MDC will first identify and contact a pool of potentially eligible students demonstrating the greatest need (i.e., students with a zero estimated family contribution (EFC) and receiving a Pell grant). To be in this initial pool, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must have also been enrolled in Spring 2020 (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria). The student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2019-20 FAFSA. Once identified, this initial pool will be contacted via email and each student will be invited to complete an application. The application will require the student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student did incur such eligible expenses, then (s)he will receive a grant in the amount of \$1,800.
- Three days later, MDC will identify and contact a pool of potentially eligible students demonstrating the next greatest need (i.e., students receiving partial Pell, that have an estimated family contribution (EFC) of 1-5576). To be in this second pool, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must also have been

enrolled in Spring 2020 (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria). The student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2019-20 FAFSA. Once identified, this second pool will be contacted via email and each student will be invited to complete an application. The application will require the student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student did incur such eligible expenses, then (s)he will receive a grant in the amount of \$750.

- Three days later, MDC will identify and contact a pool of potentially eligible students demonstrating the next greatest need (i.e., applied for financial aid and met the requirements of HEA 484, but did not receive a Pell grant). To be potentially eligible in this third pool, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must have also been enrolled in Spring 2020 (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria). This student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2019-20 FAFSA. Once identified, this third pool will be contacted via email and each student will be invited to complete an application. The application will require the student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student did incur such eligible expenses, then (s)he will receive a grant in the amount of \$300.
- Three days later, MDC will open the application to all students. To be eligible in for a grant, as above, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must also have been enrolled in Spring 2020 (students exclusively enrolled in an online

program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria). The student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2019-20 FAFSA. This pool will be required to complete the same application as the prior pools, which will require to student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

- Applications for the Spring/Summer program will be accepted until: 08/21/2020

#### Fall Program:

The method used by MDC to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act has been based on the instructions and guidance provided in the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Federal Student Aid, the Certification and Agreement completed by MDC, the April 9, 2020 letter of Secretary DeVos, and subsequent guidance issued by ED. MDC's program was also developed in consultation with external legal counsel to ensure compliance with all aspects of the CARES Act.

Consistent with this guidance, instructions and limitations, and the discretion specifically granted to higher education institutions therein, MDC is using a phased application process that prioritizes the students with the greatest need who also meet Title IV eligibility criteria. The application that MDC has developed also requires each student to attest that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, as required by the Act. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received, grant amounts will be closely tied to a student's Pell status and are indicated below. A brief description of each phase follows:

- Applications for the Fall Program will begin on: 08/14/2020
- MDC will first identify and contact a pool of potentially eligible students demonstrating the greatest need (i.e., students with a zero estimated family contribution (EFC) and receiving a Pell grant). To be in this initial pool, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must have also been enrolled in either the Spring 2020 term in at least one face-to-face class (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria) or in any class in the Summer 2020 Term. The student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2020-21 FAFSA. Once identified, this initial pool will be contacted via email and each student will be invited to complete an application. The application will require the student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student did incur such eligible expenses, then (s)he will receive a grant in the amount of \$1,800.
- Three days later, MDC will identify and contact a pool of potentially eligible students demonstrating the next greatest need (i.e., students receiving partial Pell, that have an estimated family contribution (EFC) of 1-5576). To be in this second pool, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must also have been enrolled in either the Spring 2020 term in at least one face-to-face class (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria) or in any class in the Summer 2020 Term. The student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2020-21 FAFSA. Once identified, this second pool will be contacted via email and each student will be invited to complete an application.

The application will require the student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student did incur such eligible expenses, then (s)he will receive a grant in the amount of \$750.

- Three days later, MDC will identify and contact a pool of potentially eligible students demonstrating the next greatest need (i.e., applied for financial aid and met the requirements of HEA 484, but did not receive a Pell grant). To be potentially eligible in this third pool, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must have also been enrolled in either the Spring 2020 term in at least one face-to-face class (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria) or in any class during in the Summer 2020 Term. This student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2020-2021 FAFSA. Once identified, this third pool will be contacted via email and each student will be invited to complete an application. The application will require the student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. If the student did incur such eligible expenses, then (s)he will receive a grant in the amount of \$300.
- Three days later, MDC will open the application to all students. To be eligible in for a grant, as above, the student must be currently-enrolled in an authorized program of study and must also have been enrolled in either the Spring 2020 term in at least one face-to-face class (students exclusively enrolled in an online program as of March 13, 2020 are excluded as per ED eligibility criteria) or in any class in the Summer 2020 Term. The student must also have demonstrated Title IV eligibility through a 2020-21 FAFSA. This

pool will be required to complete the same application as the prior pools, which will require to student to confirm the above information and confirm whether (s)he did or did not incur eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

- Applications for the Fall program will be accepted until: 11/16/2020

MDC hopes to provide CARES funding for spring/summer and fall semesters to continuing students, as funding remains available, based upon the same eligibility requirements indicated above (including the requirement that they have incurred an expense related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus), but there is no guarantee that additional funds will be available.

### **Reporting Guidelines**

On May 6, 2020, the Department of Education (ED or the Department) released reporting guidelines for institutions that have received the student portion of their HEERF-allocation under the CARES Act, which will be used to make emergency grants to certain eligible students. Per that guidance, ED called for institutions to post certain information on its website and is indicated below.

In an abundance of caution, although not clear that this is required as part of MDC's direct report to the Secretary, MDC will share with the Secretary that information which will appear on its website, as called for by ED's May 6, 2020 guidelines. Namely:

- MDC acknowledges that it signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and 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.
- 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 is 30,399. This number represents those current MDC students who have demonstrated their Title IV eligibility as of the date of this report. According to the CARES Act and guidance from the Department, the “sole and exclusive purpose” for these student grants is for “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.” It is of course possible that some portion of the listed number of students, while Title IV eligible, did not incur eligible CARES Act expenses. All applicants seeking funding are required to attest that they have incurred eligible expenses. MDC is processing these applications in the order in which they are received. The process remains ongoing as of the date of this submission.
- MDC has received a total of \$24,537,369 from the Department for emergency financial aid grants to be allocated to students.
- The method used by MDC to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is based on the instructions and guidance provided by the CARES Act, the Department, Federal Student Aid, the Certification and Agreement completed by MDC, the April 9,

2020 letter of Secretary DeVos, and the April 21, 2020 Frequently Asked Questions posted by ED. Specifically, and consistent with that guidance, instructions and limitations, and the discretion specifically granted to higher education institutions therein, MDC is using a phased application process that prioritizes the students with the greatest need who also meet the Title IV eligibility criteria as indicated in the program overview above. The application also requires each student to attest that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received, and grant amounts will be tied to a student's Pell status (see above "Program Overview" section for more detail).

- The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants awarded to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is \$10,633,400. The College has received a total of 15,414 applications of which 8,733 students were approved for an award.
- MDC has been asked to provide any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants. MDC provided comprehensive FAQs to their students in this regard, which can be found at, <https://www.mdc.edu/cares-act/>.
- Finally, MDC can confirm that it has continued to pay all of its employees and contractors during this reporting period.