

CARES/CRRSAA/ARP EMERGENCY FUNDS – Oct 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT

Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) is a recipient of emergency funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). These funds are authorized by the U.S. Department of Education through Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP). WCCCD acknowledges that the Certification and Agreement has been signed and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. No less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act will be issued to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

WCCCD has received \$20,856,294 from the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to the signed Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. These funds were distributed to eligible students upon completion of the CARES Act Emergency Fund Application available online. WCCCD established a CARES Act Emergency Funds Task Force to review all applications and determine the allocation amounts to students.

Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been allocated to cover the following: technology, housing, living expenses, course materials, internet access and child care and more. As of September 30, 2023, the CARES Act Emergency Funds Task Force received more than 13,000 applications and funded more than 9500 students. All funds have been expended. Students with emergency needs completed an online application that was posted on our website during the open application cycles. Currently, WCCCD has distributed \$20,856,294 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this posting. Approximately 10,000 students at WCCCD were potentially eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Emergency Financial Aid Grants were awarded to students that were verified as eligible by the U.S. Department of Education and the District Financial Aid Office, have verified enrollment from the Spring of 2020 through the Fall of 2022 and have self-certified their needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of each grant was determined by the CARES Act Emergency Funds Task Force. Recipients of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants were informed that these funds do not need to be paid back and will not negatively impact their financial aid award. Students were also informed that Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been awarded to meet the needs identified by each student on their application.