The CARES Act at Greenfield Community College – or - CARES Act Information,

In March 2020 the U.S. Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist students with covering expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

The CARES Act provides federal funds to students to offset the expenses they might have incurred when their college switched from face-to-face to remote learning. That could mean having to buy a computer, buying or upgrading internet access, or increased utility costs from being home, among other expenses. Students who need help covering expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus may benefit from funding available through the CARES Act Grant.

Allocation and Distribution of Funds

Greenfield Community College signed and returned the Department of Education Certification and Agreement. The total amount of funds GCC will receive is $887,515. Under Section 18004(a)(1) the college received $443,758, 50% of the total, in funding that will go directly to students. GCC identified 1,076 students who were eligible to receive funding based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. Eligible students who were enrolled during the spring semester were awarded grants in the range of $475 – $850 based on their spring enrollment.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Part-time Enrollment</th>
<th>Three-Quarter time Enrollment</th>
<th>Full-time Enrollment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$475</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$850</td>
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Funds were disbursed directly to students. If a student owed a balance to GCC, these funds were not applied to that balance. Disbursements checks were mailed directly to students and included a letter explaining why they were receiving the check (see sample below). CARES Act funding is not a Federal Title IV and therefore will not reduce the student’s financial aid award or impact their demonstrated need. CARES Act grants are not taxable per the IRS.

Eligibility criteria to receive CARES Act funding includes but is not limited to being enrolled for the Current spring semester at Greenfield Community College in at least class that, prior to March 13, 2020, met face-to-face during the spring 2020 semester; be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen; have completed a high school diploma or equivalent; and, be matriculated into an eligible program.

In accordance with the provisions of the CARES Act under Section 18004(a)(1), students enrolled in entirely online courses or online degree majors during the spring 2020 semester are not eligible to receive CARES Act funding.

As of May 21, 2020, GCC awarded $420,925 to 663 students.

In late October 2020 the remaining $22,833 was awarded to 31 students. Priority was given to students who were enrolled over the spring 2020 term and/or summer 2020 terms, met the
eligibility criteria established under the CARES Act fund, and pre-registered or enrolled in the fall 2020 term. The average award amount for this student group was $761. At this same point in October, $4,350 escheatment was reassigned to six eligible students with an average award amount of $725.

Copy of letter sent to students along with the check:

Dear Student:
The enclosed check is part of the federal CARES Act, Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security. Greenfield Community College is distributing this direct emergency aid to students on behalf of the federal government. The enclosed check is not a refund from Greenfield Community College and it is not meant to pay any existing balance, if you still have one. These funds are being sent to you regardless of your current tuition and fee account status. If you think you may still have a balance, please log in to MyGCC to review your account.
The CARES Act is meant to provide fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families and small businesses, and preserve jobs for our American industries. For more information about the CARES Act and the check you received please visit: U. S. Department of the Treasury at https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares
In accordance with the CARES Act guidelines, the aid is meant to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care expenses
The Greenfield Community College family hopes you are doing well during this difficult time. Navigating college is difficult enough without managing the impact of a pandemic. GCC is committed to your education and supporting your success and we are here to help. For additional resources and information, please visit our website at gcc.mass.edu/students/covid19/
Sincerely,
The Bursar’s Office