

CARES Emergency Grant Awarding Policy

Independence Community College and its students are facing unprecedented and challenging obstacles during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Emergency. The funding issued to ICC under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act affords ICC the opportunity to financially alleviate some of the obstacles our students face.

Purpose

In pursuit of offering students emergency grant aid, ICC has identified the following factors that influence the awarding policy:

- I. The low socioeconomic status of its student body presents a challenge when ICC converted its delivery of instruction from on-campus to online. Many of ICC's students do not own or have access to technology to complete online coursework and relied heavily on ICC's technology infrastructure to complete on-campus coursework. ICC anticipates this will continue to be an issue for its current and future student body so long as the national emergency continues.
- II. Many ICC students reside in on-campus housing and were unexpectedly required to vacate dormitories, which resulted in burdensome expenses for travel, housing, and food.
- III. The students of low socioeconomic status returned to financially at-risk households where basic housing, food, health and child care resources are scarce, which poses a risk to the student's educational goals.

Considering the aforementioned factors and in consideration of the Secretary's recommendations and interpretation of CARES, ICC has created the below awarding policy for Emergency Grants to students. This policy is subject to change without notice to students based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and any legislative action(s).

Eligibility

The following students are eligible to receive a CARES Emergency Grant:

- I. Only student who is, or could be, eligible under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), to participate in programs under Title IV of the HEA. The

full list of Basic Eligibility Criteria is listed here: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>. (revised & effective 6/17/20)

- II. Students must not have been enrolled in an online-only program as of March 13, 2020 (the date of the President's Proclamation "Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak," Federal Register Vol. 85, No. 53 at 15337- 38) are eligible.
- III. Students must be degree-seeking and at least half-time status.

Awarding Procedure

Students meeting the above eligibility criteria are evaluated for an Emergency Grant in the following manner:

- I. No total emergency grant awarded to any student shall exceed the annual Pell Grant award of \$6,195.
- II. Requests for access to technology to complete online coursework will be granted to any eligible student:
 - A. Requests for a device to access online coursework will be granted in the amount of \$500. After consultation with ICC's Information Technology Department, this grant amount should be sufficient to fund access to a technology device for completion of online coursework. Consideration will be given to students who document an inability to purchase a device with this grant award.
 - B. Additional grant aid may be issued to an eligible student for supporting technology above the initial \$500 grant. E.g., printer, ink, and internet access.
- III. Requests by eligible students for reimbursement of direct expense(s) incurred as a result of the closure of ICC on-campus residence buildings will be granted based on substantiation of expense(s) incurred, including travel/transportation, food, shipping, etc.

IV. Further emergency grant awards will be awarded to eligible students indicating expense(s) for housing, food, course materials, health care and/or child care incurred as a result of the disruption to their education due to the on-going national emergency. These grant awards will be issued (in order) based on the following calculation:

C. Financial need as determined by the student's EFC and corresponding Pell Grant chart for half-time enrollment with max cost of attendance (see attached chart). Except, student's shall receive a minimum \$300 grant where a student's EFC would otherwise make them ineligible.

D. Where a student's EFC is unavailable, substantiation of expense(s) incurred by the student (self-certification is sufficient);

E. Other factors as documented by the following office(s):

- 1.Student Affairs;
- 2.Retention and Enrollment; and
- 3.Student Financial Aid.