

June 08, 2020

Distribution of the Talladega College CARES Act Student Emergency Grant Funds and CARES Act Reporting Notification

Dear Talladegans and Families,

We hope that this communication finds you well and that you are finding some comfort in knowing that the 2020 Spring semester has ended and that each of you rose to the challenge with grace, dignity, and perseverance under great strain and stress. Congratulations!

By now, you should have received communication from us concerning the funding from the federal government through the **CARES Act** to support students' emergency grants amid the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak. We are happy to report that **Talladega College** received **approximately \$2,069,544.00** for institutional support and student emergency grants! As Talladega College's Authorizing Official, I have signed and returned to the **Department of Education** the **Certification and Agreement**. This agreement assures that the institution will use no less than **50 %** of the funds received under **Section 18004(a)(1)** of the **CARES Act** to provide **Emergency Financial Aid Grants** to our students.

Therefore, in this communication, we will share:

1. Who should expect to receive funds;
2. How we will distribute the funds;
3. When to expect to receive funds.

Who is Eligible to Receive CARES Emergency Funds?

The U.S. Department of Education has set forth the below guidelines to which the College must abide to determine grant eligibility.

1. Students must be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). For purposes of disbursement of these funds, the College will base a determination of eligibility on the existence of the student's 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
2. Students must be United States citizens (or eligible non-citizens).
3. Students must use funds for eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus to include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare CARES Act Section 18004(c).
4. Students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, as outlined by Financial Aid guidelines.

Further, **Talladega College** requires its students to meet the following criteria:

- Submit a Coronavirus/Covid-19 Student Emergency Assistance Application through the **MyTalladega student portal** to show that they are interested in receiving the benefits. The application also serves to certify how the student will use the benefits provided;
- Enrolled during the Spring 2020 semester as a degree-seeking, full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate Talladega College student;
- Experience an unexpected financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

What expenses are covered?

Although there are varying expenses associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, the following are examples of costs covered by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Emergency Fund:

- Food, Housing, Course Materials, Technology, Health Care, and Child Care Expenses;
- Travel Expenses (as a result of the COVID-19);
- Homelessness or sudden loss of housing (as a result of the COVID-19);
- Overdue utility bills reaching a turn-off notice (as a result of the COVID-19).

Due to the limited funding available, requests made for expenses beyond the Spring 2020 semester may not be considered at this time. Eligible students may only receive the funding once via the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Student Emergency Assistance Application. Funding awarded/received through this grant does not need to be repaid. Funds awarded can ONLY be disbursed in the form of a check made payable to the student.

How Do I Receive Funds?

Students identified by the Office of Financial Aid as initially eligible (based on the above guidelines) were notified **on May 4, 2020**. Students must follow the link provided within the email to certify that funds awarded will be used for allowable expenses. Funds will not be disbursed to students who have not submitted an application/certification form. We are asking all students who received a notification to submit their form as soon as possible.

Upon receipt of the application/certification form, funds will be disbursed via check to students. Checks will be mailed to the address on file with Talladega College unless the student has provided an alternative mailing address.

To date, the total number of students that have received Emergency Financial Aid Grant?

As of **June 8, 2020**, Talladega College has disbursed **\$393,500** of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to our students pursuant to **Section 18004(a)(1)** of the **CARES Act**.

When Can I Expect to Receive the Funds?

The College will process fund disbursements **weekly** for students.

If you do not receive an eligibility email, but based on the criteria outlined above, believe that you are eligible to receive funds, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at **(256)761-6237** or **finaid@talladega.edu**.

Sincerely,



Billy C. Hawkins, Ph.D.
President