

# **CARES Act/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF)**

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**The federal government is providing special COVID-19 emergency grants to college students around the country. Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College has signed and returned to the Department the Certification, Agreement, and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The total amount received for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is \$34,283.00. As we prepare to distribute this funding to eligible students, we are sharing information to help you understand how you may be impacted. Students with Questions about the CARES Act/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding should contact [emergencyaid@kbocc.edu](mailto:emergencyaid@kbocc.edu)**

## **What is the CARES Act?**

On March 27, Congress passed the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (CARES) to provide economic relief to individuals for hardships experienced during the COVID-19 crisis.

## **How does the CARES Act Impact College Students?**

The CARES Act provides colleges with funds to be distributed directly to eligible students for their “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, internet access, health care, and child-care expenses.” These grants are not taxable and not counted when estimated financial aid for FAFSA packaging.

## **Who is eligible for the CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?**

Students who meet basic eligibility criteria for Federal Student Aid can be considered for these funds. The Financial Aid Office will use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to determine your eligibility. Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, these funds can be awarded to students pursuing degree programs and enrolled at KBOCC. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, non-matriculated/non-degree seeking students or students enrolled in distance-only degree programs.

## **When will CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds be available?**

KBOCC has received \$34,283 from the U.S. Department of Education and will distribute grants to those students who apply based on their enrollment status beginning the week of May 13th. Recipients will be notified via their KBOCC email account.

## **Why wouldn't I receive a CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Grant?**

Under U.S. Department of Education rules for the program, students who are not eligible for

federal financial aid programs are not eligible for federal CARES grants. Students who have not yet done so are encouraged to work with the Financial Aid Office to fill out the FAFSA, which will help us determine eligibility for a CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund grant.

**Will CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Grants be Applied to Outstanding Balances on my Student Account?**

No, these grants will not be applied to outstanding balances on student accounts and are intended to provide immediately accessible funds to students.

**May 13, 2020 UPDATE**

Spring 2020 semester – 40 students are eligible to apply. 19 students received assistance in the amount of \$32,200. To verify this assistance was received directly by students a signature is required upon receipt. Payments will available for pickup at the KBOCC Bookstore on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 and Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 3-5pm. Those who cannot make it, please notify [emergencyaid@kbocc.edu](mailto:emergencyaid@kbocc.edu) to make other arrangements.

**June 1, 2020 UPDATE**

Summer 2020 semester – 8 students are eligible to apply. 7 students received assistance in the amount of \$2,083. To verify this assistance was received directly by students a signature is required upon receipt. Payments will available for pickup at the KBOCC Bookstore on Friday, June 19, 2020 from 2:30-4:30pm. Those who cannot make it, please notify [emergencyaid@kbocc.edu](mailto:emergencyaid@kbocc.edu) to make other arrangements.

**July 14, 2020 UPDATE**

Summer 2020 semester has ended, and all funding for student relief has been disbursed.