

Subject: FW: Cares Act/HEERF Funds distribution update



Students,

Later this week we will begin distributing our CARES Act fund to all eligible students. The CARES Act was developed by the US government in response to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic and establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). This HEERF was created to specifically provide emergency financial aid grants to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. These grants are intended to help students with their necessary expenses which may include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.

These federal CARES Act funds have been limited to Title IV eligible students which means **only those students who meet eligibility criteria for federal financial aid may receive the emergency financial aid grants**. Eligibility criteria include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or [eligible noncitizen](#); a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting. MHCC students who qualify for these funds will receive an email following this one with more details surrounding the funds they will be receiving.

The funds will be automatically disbursed, and no application will be required. We are aware that some external sources have sent emails with incorrect dates, award amounts, and eligibility details. Please know that we have worked to distribute these funds as quickly as possible, and all restrictions were determined by the federal government. We have worked to award these funds to our students as quickly and broadly as allowed. However, we sadly know the Title IV eligibility criteria will exclude a number of our students who are in need. As a result, we have diligently been working to find financial resources from our Foundation Board and other grant sources in able to help and support these students at this time.

We now have some funds that the college can and will use to support these students in need who did not qualify. If you are in need and believe you will not qualify for these funds, we urge you to fill out the [Student Services form](#) on our website or live chat with one of our [Student Services HUB specialists](#). These services are confidential, and we are here to help.

Again, we urge you to please reach out to us if you need support – monetary or otherwise. We are doing all we can to make sure each of our students has the resources and support needed to continue their educational journey and achieve their goals.

Stay safe, and keep striving to be your dream.

John Hamblin PhD
Executive Dean of Student Development