

## Columbus Technical College CARES Act Student Disbursement Plan

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**Student Allocation:** \$1,565,951

Columbus Technical College acknowledges that the institution signed and returned the certification and agreement form and intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of the emergency financial aid grants to students.

Columbus Technical College will follow and adhere to the regulations and guidelines in the CARES/HEERF grant legislation, and disburse funds to eligible students for emergency assistance related to the disruption of campus operations and instruction due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. It would be impossible to identify direct and discreet harms and/or obstacles each student has incurred, but it is common knowledge no one student has been left without financial distress due to the factors listed in the legislation. Columbus Technical College will make every effort to ensure the quick and equitable distribution of the funds to students.

### Eligibility:

- Student who is impacted by Covid-19 according to the College's Qualifying Emergency Policy
- Students enrolled as of March 16, 2020 will be eligible to receive funds
- Students will not be required to complete an application for funding
- Students enrolled after March 16th in at least one (1) credit hour for a program that leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree (excludes IA00, SP00, and TR00 major codes)
- Columbus Technical College has an ISIR for the 19/20 award year
- The student's ISIR does not have any outstanding verification requirements (No Comment Codes/Flags).
- The student has met all admission requirements including; HS, GED or equivalency (FAFSA self-certify or ATB).
- The student's Spring Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is under an eligible status (Good Standing, Warning, or an approved SAP appeal)
- Exclusions:
  - Dual Enrolled
  - DACA
  - Foreign Students
  - Any student who withdrew from all classes Spring semester (2020/21) prior to March 16, 2020
  - Transient Students
  - Students with defaulted student loans, overpayments or other loan eligibility restrictions
  - Students who were enrolled only in a part-of-term (POT) that ended prior to March 16th
  - Students who were enrolled exclusively in distance education for the spring semester

## Eligible Student Population

**1,656 students meet the above criteria**

**244 students meet the above criteria but were 100% enrolled in online courses before the March 16, 2020 declared COVID-19 crisis start date**

**440 students who have not completed a 19-20 FAFSA (as of 5/6/2020): Students have until June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to complete a 2019-2020 FAFSA to become eligible for CARES Relief Stipend**

## Proposed Process for Awarding and Disbursing Emergency Funds to Students

1. Funds will be awarded and disbursed, by the Office of Financial Aid, onto student accounts using the CARES Act fund code identified by TCSG.
2. Each student account will show a credit balance. CARES Act funds cannot be automatically used to cover tuition and fees. This will generate a refund.
3. Bursar's Office will upload credit balance to BankMobile for release to the students.

## Additional Emergency Funds to Students

Columbus Technical College will use Minority Serving Institutional funds to award to students during the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters. These funds will be used as additional Financial Aid Emergency Grant Aid available to students to apply for through the Request for CARES Act Emergency Assistance Form. Award amounts for this population will vary based on student need, available funding, documentation and student eligibility. These funds will be disbursed to those students who meet the above federal eligibility criteria as well as all criteria below:

- Student must apply for Emergency Grant Funds through the Request for CARES Act Emergency Assistance Form.

Students who apply for additional Financial Aid Emergency Grant Aid through the application process will be reviewed and awarded on a needs-based basis until funding has been depleted.

## Proposed Funding Methodology

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Columbus Technical College will automatically award all eligible students a standard amount.

(1) Eligible Spring term students only: \$1656 one-time disbursement (669*1,656 students) =	\$741,161
(2) Reserve for 244 exclusively online students meeting above criteria	+ <u>163,236*</u> \$ 904,397
(3) Remaining funds to eligible students who complete FASFA after first disbursement calculation (440 students)	+ <u>294,360</u> <u>\$1,565,460**</u>

\*If not cleared by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 by USDE, added to item #3

\*\*Any unexpended funds will be redistributed to students enrolled in Summer Semester that were impacted and received a CARES stipend payment during Spring Semester

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## *Funds Distributed*

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As of November 11, 2020, Columbus Technical College has disbursed **\$1,321,944** to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

- Students who were enrolled spring semester as of March 16, met eligibility requirements, and were not enrolled exclusively online were selected to receive CARES Act student funds. To determine how much grant money each student would receive, Columbus Technical College took its total allotment of student funds and divided it by the number of eligible students equally, awarding each student \$669.00.
- The initial disbursement was made on May 26, 2020. A total of 1,687 spring semester eligible students were awarded a total of \$1,128,603 (\$669\*1,687 students).
- The second round of CARES Act funds were distributed on July 9, 2020. A total of 75 eligible students who completed the FASFA after first disbursement were awarded a total of \$50,175 (\$669 \* 75 students).
- Another round of CARES Act funds were distributed on November 11, 2020. A total of 214 eligible students who completed the Columbus Technical College CARES Act Emergency Assistance Request Form were awarded a total of \$143,166. (\$669 \* 214 students)
- As additional students are identified as meeting the criteria, additional awards will be made.

### **Information Concerning CARES Funding**

In an effort to ensure students were aware of the CARES funds, a CARES Plan link was added to the homepage of the college's website as well as an informational letter and link to the CARES Plan were placed on the college's [Financial Aid webpage](#). Additionally, informational emails concerning the CARES Act plan and funding were sent to all students.