



May 28, 2021

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding from the United States Department of Education is to provide emergency financial aid grants (commonly known as CARES Grants) to assist eligible students with expenses related to the disruption of campus activities due to the COVID-19 crisis. Southwest Mississippi Community College (SMCC) signed an agreement with the United States Department of Education to accept funds as part of the CARES Act.

The college received CARES Act funding from the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$1,160,085.00 for Institutional Portion funds and \$149,847 for Minority Serving Institution funds. Of those amounts, \$960,473 was disbursed to eligible students. Approximately 1,200 SMCC students were eligible for this CARES Act disbursement. SMCC considers an eligible student **a student enrolled in the Spring 2021 semester as a full-time student** (12+ credit hours). It should be noted, SMCC has disbursed in prior semesters, \$1,160,085.00 in CARES Act Student Portion funds to eligible students.

The College awarded emergency financial aid grants to eligible students in the following manner: SMCC prioritized eligible students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell grants. SMCC distributed \$860.00 to all eligible students who received a Pell grant during the Spring 2021 semester. Also, SMCC distributed \$700.00 to all other eligible students enrolled during the Spring 2021 semester.

The enclosed check has been issued to you from SMCC using CARES Act funds and is an emergency financial aid grant and does not need to be paid back. If you have an outstanding balance at SMCC, please know you can pay your SMCC balance with these funds.

Students enrolled in the Spring 2021 semester, who did not receive funds and believe they are entitled to CARES Act funds may submit a request with supporting documentation as to why they are eligible to the college via email at the following email address: businessoffice@smcc.edu.