

**Shawnee Community College  
CARES Act-Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the CARES Act, Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund?**

The CARES Act, established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of education due to the coronavirus. Eligible college students are to receive 50% of HEERF grant aid in a general distribution and colleges are to determine the formula used to distribute the aid.

**What college students are eligible to receive a general distribution relief grant?**

Eligible students must:

- Have completed a FAFSA & be eligible to receive federal financial aid
- Be enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours and achieving satisfactory academic progress as of April 20, 2020
- Have experienced significant additional needs and hardships due to COVID-19
- Be degree or certificate seeking students.

**Can students be enrolled in all online courses and receive HEERF?**

No. The formula provided by Congress for calculating the distribution of funds excludes students who were enrolled in all distance education courses.

**If an eligible student receives relief funds, can they spend the money on anything they want?**

No. Students must certify that they will use the funds on eligible expenses defined by Congress which include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

**If a student is not eligible for the general distribution of relief funds, are there other emergency funds available?**

Yes. On May 18, 2020, an online Emergency Fund Application will be released on the SCC website that is a combination of funds made available through the CARES Act, ICCB, IBHE, and ISAC.

**Can students apply for the emergency funds if they received the HEERF general distribution?**

No. Students who have received the HEERF general distribution are considered to have received some reimbursement for the disruption of their education during Spring semester 2020.

**What if a student's education is still being disrupted during Summer semester 2020 or Fall semester 2020, can they apply for the emergency relief aid?**

No. At this point, the disruption of education had to occur during Spring semester 2020.