**What is the CARES/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided by the federal government?**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law to provide economic relief from COVID-19. One section of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund and sent money to schools to use for emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.

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

JWCC applied for funding from the federal CARES Act and received notification of approval April 25, 2020. During the first week of May, the Department of Education confirmed that funds must only go to students that meet Title IV eligibility requirements and that experience a change in educational delivery at the time of the pandemic declaration.

The College plans to release funds to students in three ways:

* Spring enrollees – The week of May 11, the college will release the first disbursement of funds to students. Recipients must have a valid 2019-2020 FAFSA on file. Students must meet eligibility requirements for Title IV awarding of funds. Students who attended all original online classes during spring 2020 semester do not qualify for CARES Act funds. Students enrolled in 12+ credit hours during the spring term will receive $500. Students enrolled in 1-11 credit hours will receive $250.
* Summer/Fall enrollees - Depending on available funds, the college plans a second release of grants to students for summer semester and potentially fall. Due to summer term being all online, all Title IV eligible students here at JWCC will be considered for funding if an eligible 2019-2020 FAFSA is on file and completed. Amounts may vary due to limited funds. Fall students must have a valid 2020-2021 FAFSA on file.
* An emergency relief fund has been established for students to apply for additional funding due to COVID-19 impact beyond the base awards listed above. This emergency relief fund application will allow students to be considered for funding due to emergency situations and will include funds provided through the JWCC Foundation and federal Cares Act.

These funds are meant to help students pay expenses for technology, health care, childcare, course materials, rent, food, or other expenses incurred due to COVID-19. If you have yet to experience financial stress due to COVID-19, these funds can help with unanticipated expenses or income loss that may occur throughout a semester of enrollment. Follow this link to make application for emergency request. <https://machform.jwcc.edu/view.php?id=98635>

Recipients will be notified via a message to their JWCC email account.

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

Students must meet eligibility criteria for federal financial aid (Title IV). This includes degree seeking, US citizen or approved permanent resident, selective services on file, valid social security number, not in default of student loans, making Satisfactory Academic Progress, etc.

The Financial Aid Office has used the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to determine eligibility. If you are eligible to file a FAFSA but have not yet filed for 2019-20 please file a FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov/). You have until May 30, 2020, to complete the FAFSA for 2019-2020 to be considered for funding if you are a spring 2020 enrollee.

Students enrolled that are non-degree seeking or enrolled in non-credit course work, community education courses, or GED/Adult education courses unfortunately, are not eligible for consideration. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, high school students or students who were enrolled in distance-only course work at the time of the pandemic.

**Will I have to pay back JWCC CARES Act Relief Grant if I receive money?**

The funds are a grant and students are not required to pay these funds back to the institution.

**Will I be taxed on the funds I receive through the CARES Act Relief Grant?**

You will need to check with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS.gov) to determine if the grant funds are taxable at the end of the year.

**Why didn’t I receive a JWCC CARES Act Relief 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. If you are on Satisfactory Academic Progress suspension, in default of federal students loans, or had been withdrawn from courses due to non-engagement or by your own choice, you will not receive a grant disbursement from the federal CARES Act funds.

If you feel you are eligible for federal aid but did not receive the JWCC CARES Act Relief standard grant described above, you can notify us through the via email and we will review your student account. Please email [financialaid@jwcc.edu](mailto:financialaid@jwcc.edu) and mention “Where’s my CARES Act funds?

**What other emergency relief funds are available for students?**

JWCC has three emergency funds that students may apply to for assistance. The JWCC CARES Act fund provided by the Department of Education and then two additional funds through the JWCC Foundation. Please submit the emergency relief fund application to be considered for all three funds.

Once an emergency relief fund application is submitted it will be reviewed within 72 hours with an email follow-up to your college email.

**Will there be CARES funds for 2020-2021?**

JWCC is concentrating on spring semester emergency aid and monitoring federal and state economic conditions. We will continue to make emergency aid grants from CARES funds to individuals as long as funds are available. Any funds distributed during the fall semester of federal funds will require a valid 2020-2021 FAFSA application on file with enrollment associated with a term.