

State Fair

Community College
CARES Act grant FAQs

Why did I get this money?

The Department of Education has made CARES Act funds available to students who incurred expenses due to the disruption of campus operations during COVID-19. Eligible students have a 2019-2020 FAFSA on file and were enrolled in classes on or after March 13, 2020. Grants of \$300-\$500 were given to these students as outlined in Phase 1.

I received my CARES Act grant. Does this mean my State Fair Community College account balance has been paid off?

No. Distribution of the CARES Act grant is made directly to you and not applied towards your SFCC account. You may still have a balance. Please check your current account balance to determine what you may still owe.

Can I use this money to pay off my SFCC account balance?

Yes. SFCC is not authorized to apply the CARES Act grant toward any outstanding balances. However, once you receive your funds, you may choose to pay off your outstanding SFCC account balance.

Can SFCC just apply the funds to my account balance with my approval or permission?

No. Federal regulations stipulate that all CARES Act grants be given directly to the student. If you would like to pay off your SFCC account balance, please send a payment to the Business Office or pay online through the mySFCC Payment Center.

What are the eligible criteria to qualify for CARES Act funding?

To be eligible to receive a CARES Act grant, you must have a valid 2019-2020 FAFSA on file and be enrolled in a degree seeking program.

Are International students or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students eligible for the CARES Act grant?

No. However, there may be other emergency funding or institutional aid that could be available to help you. We encourage you to fill out the Emergency Relief Request Application to start the request process.

Do I have to pay this money back?

No. Any funds from the CARES Act will not need to be repaid.

Does the money count towards my financial aid package?

No. Money from the CARES Act is not considered financial assistance under the federal statute, nor Department of Education regulations.

Is money received from the CARES Act considered taxable income?

No. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced that emergency grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not included in your gross income.

If I received money from Phase 1, but still have need, can I get more money?

Possibly. Phase 2 of the SFCC distribution process will be an application-based funding request. By filling out the Emergency Relief Request Application you may be able to request up to and additional \$500. Applications will be reviewed and disbursed within 5 business days after receipt. Please note in some cases, additional documentation may be required, which could extend our response time.

If I did not qualify for any CARES Act funding are there any other emergency funds for which I can apply?

Yes. SFCC encourages any student to fill out the Emergency Relief Request Application. There may be other emergency funds or institutional money that could help you during this time. However, these funds may count towards your financial aid package and will be applied toward your SFCC account balance prior to being refunded.