

Update posted on the Iowa Western website (iwcc.edu) as of May 8, 2020.

CARES Act Update

Iowa Western Community College has completed the necessary paperwork to receive federal funds through Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In compliance with federal guidelines, 50% of the funding received to date, will be distributed directly to Iowa Western students in the form of emergency financial assistance grants. This equates to \$1,5087,692 in CARES Act funding to support student emergency financial assistance grants.

Based on federal guidelines, 1,852 Iowa Western students are eligible to receive CARES Act emergency financial assistance grants.

To receive a CARES Act grant, students must first complete a brief application. The application was made available to eligible students on May 5, 2020 with a priority deadline of May 15. Emails were sent to all eligible students with instructions and a link to the application. The first round of CARES Act emergency financial assistance grants will be delivered to eligible students with completed applications in early June. Grants will continue to be distributed to eligible students as long as funding is available.

Iowa Western is using the following federal eligibility requirements to distribute CARES Act emergency financial assistance grants:

- (1) be enrolled at Iowa Western for the spring 2020 semester,
- (2) be degree seeking (not a visiting student from another institution or a high school student taking dual enrollment courses),
- (3) be enrolled in courses that included face to face instruction on March 27, 2020 (not taking only online courses) and
- (4) have a completed current FAFSA application on file.

The amount granted to each student is determined by a matrix that includes the total number of applications received and three student specific variables: 1) the student's response to the application question, 2) their financial need identified by FAFSA, and 3) the number of credit hours in which they are enrolled.

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