



## **Dear Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College Students,**

Eastern's Faculty and Staff are concerned for your safety and well-being during these trying times. The move to online instruction has presented many challenges in your effort to meet your educational goals. We know many of you have faced job losses, childcare challenges, lack of internet access, as well as, many other issues. We want you to know you are not alone and we are here to help.

As part of the CARES Act passed by Congress, colleges and universities across the country received nearly \$14 billion in emergency funding, in which \$6 billion was set aside for cash grants to assist students. Eastern was a recipient of the emergency funds and we are developing a process for how the funds will disburse to students.

In keeping with the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Eastern WV CTC is prioritizing the grants to students with the greatest financial need. Some, but not all, of our enrolled students will receive cash grant funding; for instance, students who enrolled in 100% online programs are not eligible to receive this funding.

Eastern's Administration, Business Office and Financial Aid Office will base funding on a formula utilizing credit hours attempted and expected family contributions to determine the grants awarded to students. Students, who meet our qualifying criteria, will receive an email from Monica Wilson, Dean of Student Access and Success. The email will provide additional information regarding eligibility for funds and will include an attachment and link to our certification form. You must submit the certification form within ONE week of receipt to apply for the funds.

If you are eligible to receive the grant, the amount of the award will be available to view on your MyEastern account. We ask you to ensure your mailing address is active with Eastern.

**Thank you.**



**EASTERN**  
West Virginia Community & Technical College

## **CARES ACT**

### **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College (E WVCTC) acknowledges that the institution signed April 13, 2020 and returned April 16, 2020 to the US Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form. The institution intends to use no less than \$105,944 of the funds received under Section 18004 (a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid grants to students. Eastern has received \$105,944 for Emergency Financial Aid grants to students. The award date was May 5, 2020. As of May 20, 2020, \$43,638 have been distributed to students. The total number of eligible students is 121.

As of May 20, 2020, 95 have received funds under the CARES Act. Eastern's Administration, Business Office and Financial Aid Office will base funding on a formula utilizing credit hours attempted and expected family contributions to determine the grants awarded to students. Students, who meet our qualifying criteria, received an email from Monica Wilson, Dean of Student Access and Success. The email will provide additional information regarding eligibility for funds.

Students must submit the certification form within one week of receipt to apply for the funds. Eligible students received a generic email on May 6, 2020 and a student specific email with the certification form attached on May 7 and May 8, 2020.

# **CARES ACT FAQ** *as of June 3, 2020*

## **Who qualifies for CARES Act Emergency Grants for Spring 2020?**

Spring CARES Act Emergency Grants are available to eligible students attending Spring 2020 with enrollment periods that include March 13, 2020.

Federal guidelines state that students must:

- Be an U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Not have withdrawn during the spring term
- Not have graduated at the end of spring term

Note: Federal guidelines also state that students enrolled in programs that were exclusively online even before the COVID-19 outbreak are ineligible for the grant.

## **Do I need to submit an application to be considered for Spring CARES Act Emergency Grants?**

Yes. To apply, [click here](#). Once completed, please submit your application to [monica.wilson@easternwv.edu](mailto:monica.wilson@easternwv.edu)

## **What documentation is required to be submitted with the application?**

No documentation is required but students should be prepared to sign a certification that the expenses were incurred as a result of disruption in education caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

## **Will the grant apply to the balance due on my account?**

No, these emergency grants from the CARES Act will not apply to any outstanding balances. It is your choice if you would like to use your emergency grant to make a payment on your balance due, if applicable.

## **Is the CARES Act taxable?**

No, the CARES Act is NOT considered to be taxable income.

## **Do I have to repay the CARES refund?**

No, the funds are designed to be a grant, not a loan.

## **Will the CARES Act affect my financial aid?**

No, CARES Grants do not reduce nor replace financial aid now or in the future. It is a one-time grant intended to cover expenses related to the COVID-19 Emergency. This may include housing, food, child-care, transportation, school supplies or computer/internet expenses associated with online learning.