

COVID-19 CARES Plan for Community College of Denver, Student Portion

Initial Authorization of \$2,221,589.00

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Sec. 18004. (Higher Education), on April 25, 2020, the Community College of Denver (CCD) received an initial authorization of \$2,221,589.00, required to be used only as direct grants to students to provide emergency relief aid for hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic as they look to continue their education. CCD signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement with the assurance that it will use at least 50% of the funds to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Student Emergency Aid Distribution Process

This plan has been updated to provide current expenditures (through 10/1/2020) for the federal CARES Act Student allocation. Please refer to

https://www.ccd.edu/sites/default/files/CCD%20CARES%20Act%20Report_052220.pdf for a detailed summary of the Community College of Denver's distribution plan.

In May 2020, CCD devised a plan that would allow for pre-determined percentages to be allocated to students in four potential parts: spring 2020 cash grants, summer 2020 cash grants, fall 2020 cash grants and through emergency aid applications. The dollar amount of each award was determined by dividing each allocation by the number of enrolled eligible students.

Total CARES Act Student Cash Funds: \$2,221,589		
	%	Original Allocation
Spring 2020 Eligible Students:	50%	\$1,110,794.50
Summer 2020 Eligible Students:	20%	\$444,317.80
Fall 2020 Eligible Students:	20%	\$444,317.80
Emergency Aid Applications:	10%	\$222,158.90
Total Budget:		\$2,221,589.00

In spring 2020, it was originally estimated that we would have 5,350 eligible students. Therefore, the cash grant award amount was determined to be \$207.59 ($\$1,110,794.50/5,351$). The cash grants were delivered in two phases. Phase 1 included the students with their eligibility already confirmed by having a completed FAFSA on file. Phase 2 included all non-FAFSA applicants with eligible citizenship statuses who confirmed their FAFSA eligibility through a survey. Students not maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) are not eligible for CARES Act funding and were excluded from the survey. The funds were packaged through the normal financial aid awarding process. They were delivered through the student's chosen BankMobile preference without regard to any outstanding tuition balance.

In summer 2020, it was originally estimated that we would have 2,188 eligible students. Therefore, the cash grant award was determined to be \$203.07 (\$444,317.80/2,188). The summer 2020 cash grants were delivered in the same fashion as spring.

Revised Allocation

It was unknown at the time of original estimation that a number of potentially qualified students would not respond to attempts to confirm “FAFSA eligibility”. Multiple surveys were attempted through different delivery methods: text, email, Navigate pushed notifications and within the emergency aid application. Due to the lack of response, a portion of Spring’s cash grant allocation was re-provisioned into the emergency aid application category.

Student CARES Act Expenditures as of 8/24/2020

Total CARES Act Student Cash Funds: \$2,221,589					
	%	Original Allocation	Revised Allocations:	Disbursed	Balance Left
Spring 20 Cash Grants:	50%	\$1,110,794.50	\$895,543.70	\$893,052.66	\$2,491.04
Summer 20 Cash Grants:	20%	\$444,317.80	\$444,317.80	\$345,422.07	\$98,895.73
Fall 20 Cash Grants:	20%	\$444,317.80	\$444,317.80	\$0.00	\$444,317.80
Emergency Aid Applications:	10%	\$222,158.90	\$437,409.70	\$353,184.41	\$84,225.29
Total Budget:		\$2,221,589.00	\$2,221,589.00	\$1,591,659.14	\$629,929.86

*corrects math error reported on 8/25/20

Please note the decrease in the Spring Cash Grant expenditures since the 6/24/2020 report. This is the result of two unclaimed refunds returned to CCD. This is a growing concern, as BankMobile has communicated that multiple spring COVID19 Cash unclaimed refunds are in the pipeline. CCD is monitoring these unclaimed refunds in the same way that it complies with the Title IV cash management regulations. Cancellations will be made if students do not respond to our attempts get them to claim their refunds.

In fall 2020, it was originally estimated that we would have 3,700 eligible students. Therefore, the cash grant award amount was determined to be \$120.07 (\$444,317.80/3,700). The cash grants were delivered in the same fashion as spring and summer.

Emergency Aid Application

In April 2020, CCD launched an emergency aid application at <https://www.ccd.edu/employees/departments/financial-aid-scholarships/emergency-funds-resources/emergency-aid-and-covid>. Students answered a few basic questions about their COVID19 emergency needs and were instructed to identify which of the following categories applied toward their person crisis: housing, food, course materials, technology, health care, child care, other.

In early September, the FA Office processed an explosion of emergency aid applications. The number and dollar amount of requests exceeded our revised allocation by almost \$68,000.00. Therefore, an additional allocation revision became necessary. CCD closed the emergency aid application on 8/13/2020.

New Revised Allocation and Expenditures as of 10/1/2020

With so many unknown and unpredictable variables constantly in motion (i.e., unclaimed refunds and hundreds of emergency aid applications), CCD made the decision to move enough money to cover the over expenditure in emergency aid and to increase the allocation for fall cash grants using unspent funds from spring and summer. The chart below reflex's CCD's CARES Act Student portion expenditures through the end 9/30/2020.

Total CARES Act Student Cash Funds: \$2,221,589					
	Original Allocation	New Revised Allocation	Disbursed	Balance Left	Number of Students Paid
Spring 20 Cash Grants	\$1,110,794.50	\$891,184.35	\$888,692.80	\$2,491.55	4,281
Summer 20 Cash Grants	\$444,317.80	\$345,625.14	\$345,219.00	\$406.14	1,700
Fall 20 Cash Grants	\$444,317.80	\$479,031.41	\$476,797.97	\$2,233.44	3,971
Emergency Aid Applications:	\$222,158.90	\$505,748.10	\$505,748.10	\$0.00	419
Total Budget:	\$2,221,589.00	\$2,221,589.00	\$2,216,457.87	\$5,131.13	6,773 (Unduplicated total number of students)

Expenditures Through the end 1/4/2021

No additional disbursement initiatives have occurred since the October quarterly report.

Total CARES Act Student Cash Funds: \$2,221,589					
	Original Allocation	New Revised Allocation	Disbursed	Balance Left	Number of Students Paid
Spring 20 Cash Grants	\$1,110,794.50	\$891,184.35	\$865,650.30	\$25,534.05	4,170
Summer 20 Cash Grants	\$444,317.80	\$345,625.14	\$332,425.59	\$13,199.55	1,637
Fall 20 Cash Grants	\$444,317.80	\$479,031.41	\$475,237.06	\$3,794.35	3,957
Emergency Aid Applications:	\$222,158.90	\$505,748.10	\$505,748.10	\$0.00	419
Total Budget:	\$2,221,589.00	\$2,221,589.00	\$2,216,457.87	\$42,527.95	6,639 (Unduplicated total number of students)

Unspent Expenditures

CCD will continue to monitor the unclaimed refund situation and make a decision on the reallocation of funds in the near future.

First Quarter Report – April 2021

This next section provides updates to the Student Portion of CARES Act funds and adds reporting measures on the Student Portion of CRRSAA funds. The written summary below this chart provides details on change in processes between the January 2021 quarterly report (see above) and this one.

Funding Source	Allocation	Spent	Remaining	Number of students paid*
CARES student portion	\$2,221,589.00	\$2,187,166.08	\$34,422.92	6466
CRRSAA student portion	\$2,221,589.00	\$1,767,616.42	\$453,972.58	1770

*Adjusted for unclaimed refunds

Unspent CARES Expenditures

With the onset of Coronavirus pandemic, CCD's KEYS program for displaced homemakers has seen dramatic increases in financial need for the students it services. Thus, the decision was made to reallocate unclaimed CARES funds to the KEYS program. An application was used to determine COVID19 impacts on education for 15 students within the KEYS program. They were each issued a CARES funded grant of \$1,500.00.

Additionally, the online Emergency Aid Application was reopened <https://www.ccd.edu/employees/departments/financial-aid-scholarships/emergency-funds-resources/emergency-aid-and-covid>. Applications submitted through this form are currently monitored by the Financial Aid Office and reviewed for eligibility. Awards of \$500.00 are provided to eligible applicants.

CCD continues to receive unclaimed refunds on CARES funds disbursed through the original cash grant allocations. As a result, we will be putting in a request for the no cost extension to the April 24th deadline of expenditures. The Emergency Aid and the KEYS Displaced Homemaker Applications will remain open until CARES funds have been exhausted.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

Through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) as authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on December 27, 2020, the Community College of Denver received an authorization of \$2,221,589.00 to be used as grants to students to provide emergency relief aid for hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student Distribution Process

CCD decided to change its approach to the federal stimulus funds distribution process with regard to the CRRSAA funds. This decision was based on two primary factors: 1) eliminate/reduce the unclaimed refund issue and 2) allow for the application of funds direct to student tuition and fees (upon affirmative written consent). The online CCD COVID Impact Grant Application was created for students to request funds. Within the application, students were provided with the opportunity to apply the funds directly to their tuition and fees balance or have the funds sent directly to them (through the normal BankMobile refund process).

In early February, the Financial Aid began the campaign by emailing and texting the CCD COVID Impact Grant Application to FAFSA applicants with EFC's less than \$12,001.00. There were 2748 students included in this original population. Two weeks later, the application was sent to other FAFSA applicants (regardless of EFC). Two weeks after that, the application was sent to other enrolled students with eligible citizenship status's (concurrent enrollment and inter-institutional students were excluded). All eligible students with completed applications on file

were awarded \$1,000.00. Two fund codes were used to distinguish the awards made direct to students versus direct to tuition and fees bill.

In addition to the COVID Impact Grant application, the Financial Aid Office has been also utilizing the Emergency Aid Application for the distribution of some CRRSAA funds, with \$500.00 awards made direct to students. The Financial Aid Director has been reviewing each Emergency Aid Application individually to determine which fund to award from (CARES, CRSSAA, Emergency SEOG, CCD Foundation Scholarships).