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## **CARES ACT- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) Grants to Students 8/15/2020 – Final Report**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Southeast Community College is publishing the following information regarding the awarding and disbursement of CARES Act funds to students. This report serves as the College’s good faith effort to comply with the first 45-day report required by the US Department of Education.

Southeast Community College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement and intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Fund Grants to students.

Southeast Community College was awarded \$2,141,218.00 in funds to be distributed directly to students who meet eligibility requirements. The college estimates that there are 4,598 students who could be eligible to receive these funds. SCC identified eligible students through the use of the FAFSA to determine Title IV eligibility as well as the use of any applicable Department of Education guidelines. As of August 15, 2020 the college has distributed a total of \$2,141,218.00 to 1602 students. The initial award maximum was set at \$1,000 to ensure that all eligible students who applied would be able to receive fund. On July 23, 2020 the maximum amount any eligible student could receive was increased to \$3,000 in order to account for expenses students had submitted, the number of applicants received and the funds still available to students.

Southeast Community College utilized an application process to award CARES Act grants to students. Students are required to complete an application which requests information about the amount of eligible expenses they have incurred. The application also asks students to attest that these expenses are related to the disruption in campus operations due to COVID-19. Each application is reviewed for eligibility and completion. Students were asked to submit all of their eligible expense amounts on their application in the event that CARES Act funds are available at a later date. The initial application deadline was June 30, 2020. This deadline was extended to allow eligible students to apply until all CARES Act funds could be awarded.

Eligible students have received multiple emails and a letter requesting that they go to the college’s CARES Act website to complete an application for CARES Act funds. This website has information about CARES Act eligibility, eligible expenses, a link to the CARES Act application itself and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for students. The website address is: [www.southeast.edu/cares-act](http://www.southeast.edu/cares-act).

Students whose applications were denied were sent an email outlining how they may not be Title IV eligible, did not properly complete the application, or could not receive funds because they were no longer available. Students whose applications for CARES Act funds were approved received an email stating how much they will receive. This email also provided information about when they could expect to receive their payment along with a statement asserting that CARES Act funds were distributed directly to students and the college did not deduct any CARES Act money towards any outstanding account balance prior to distributing to our students.