

Georgia Highlands College

CARES Act Reporting Requirements

To support our students' financial well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia Highlands College is providing emergency financial aid grants to eligible students from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) under the CARES Act. To comply with the U.S. Department of Education and to offer transparency, we are providing details about GHC's use of these funds.

1. On April 18, 2020, Georgia Highlands College returned to the U.S. Department of Education the signed Certification and Agreement for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding and intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under § 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. GHC received \$4,428,211.00 from the U.S. Department of Education as a result of the CARES Act, with \$2,110,118.00 set aside for student grants, \$2,110,118.00 allocated as institutional funding, and \$207,975 allocated for CARES Act Institutional and HBCU/MSI/SIP Emergency Relief Funding Distribution
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under § 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is \$2,656,030.22 as of December 31, 2020.
4. The total estimated number of GHC students eligible to participate in the CARES Act funding program under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency financial Aid Grants to students under Section § 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 3,331 students.
5. The total number of Students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section § 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 3,331 students.
6. To implement the disbursement of these funds to GHC students, GHC used a funding model that involved 3 disbursement categories.
 1. The GHC CARES Grant: The first round of disbursements was issued to all qualified students who were enrolled on April 20th, 2020, and who had a valid FASFA on file.
 2. The GHC Emergency Assistance Grant: The Emergency Assistance Grant was distributed to all GHC students who filed the 2019/2020 FAFSA and had an

estimated family contribution indicating that they were eligible to receive the Pell grant. Students had to be enrolled in courses at GHC on April 20, 2020. Recipients of the GHC Emergency Assistance Grant could also receive the GHC CARES Grant.

3. The GHC CARES Emergency Fund: The fund is used to provide emergency grants to assist students during the COVID-19 crisis for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). It is designed to enable a student to meet a short-term financial hardship and is managed by GHC's financial aid department. Students will complete an application requesting assistance and will provide supporting documentation. Applications will be processed by a campus review committee that will meet and approve awards once a week. To be eligible for consideration, the student must have a valid 2019/2020 FASFA on file.

7. Georgia Highlands College provided instructions for applying for the grants through an email to all eligible students and on the institution's main CARES Act webpage. Students who were awarded grants because of their demonstrated need were notified via email once the payments were disbursed.