

Georgia Highlands College Plan for CARES Act Grants

Georgia Highlands College has been approved for \$2,110,118 to award in the first round of grants for our students. In order for students to be qualified to receive the funds, the following criteria must be met:

- ***Students must have a completed 2019/2020 FAFSA on file in order to be considered***
- ***Students must have been enrolled in “on-campus” classes for Spring 2020, and were subsequently required to move to remote instruction in March 2020.***
- ***Transient students, Dual Enrollment students, or any student enrolled in only online classes as of March 13, 2020 are excluded from this first round of funding.***

To implement the disbursement of these funds to GHC students, the funding model will involve 3 disbursement categories.

1. The GHC CARES Grant. The first round of disbursements will be issued to all qualified students who are enrolled on April 20th, 2019, and who have a valid FAFSA on file.
2. The GHC Emergency Assistance Grant: The Emergency Assistance Grant will be 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 would have to be enrolled in courses at GHC on April 20, 2020. Recipients of the GHC Emergency Assistance Grant would also receive the GHC CARES Grant.
3. The GHC CARES Emergency Fund: The fund will be 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 will be 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 FAFSA on file.

As of April 20, 2020, there are 3,321 students who qualify for the CARES Act funding. Of that population, 1,836 are Pell eligible. Using these numbers, the CARES Act allotment would be broken out in the following manner:

		Average Award	Maximum Award
Total CARES Act Allotment	\$ 2,110,118		
GHC CARES Act Grant	\$ 1,228,770	\$370	
GHC Emergency Assistance Grant	\$ 679,320	\$370	
GHC CARES Emergency Fund	\$ 228,368	\$350	\$750

This plan would provide some assistance to all eligible GHC students in the form of the GHC CARES Grant by providing them with \$370. Those with demonstrated need, as determined by the FAFSA, would also receive an additional \$370 from the GHC Emergency Assistance Grant, giving them a total of \$740.

The GHC CARES Act Emergency Fund would be an additional option to provide eligible students with additional funds in emergency situations.

GHC CARES Act Emergency Fund Awarding Process

The GHC Cares Act review committee will be made up of the following representatives:

Bursar's Office	2 representatives
Financial Aid	1 representative
Student Support Services	1 representative
Academic Division Chair	1 representative

Eligible students will have the ability to submit one application, requesting emergency funds. Applications will be reviewed by the GHC Cares Act Committee and presented at a weekly meeting. The deadline for submissions will be 48 hours prior to each meeting. The committee will notify students within 48 hours of each committee meeting. The initial deadline, to apply, will be 07/01/2020. If there are funds remaining after this date, a second application submittal period will be opened.

Award decisions will be based on the established criteria outlined in the application. Award amounts will be determined based on eligibility, the request, proof of need, and available funds. Awards will average approximately \$350, however extenuating circumstances may warrant a higher amount. All requests and awards will be tracked and recorded by Financial Aid for student retention monitoring and reporting purposes.

GHC CARES Act Emergency Criteria

GHC CARES Act Emergency funds may be used to assist students with unexpected emergency expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenses should be related to the cost of attendance, and could include, but not limited to:

- Food expenses
- Technology
- Course materials
- Unanticipated and/or extraordinary expenses for their dependent children including, but not limited to, child-care, formula, and diapers
- Medical bills or medications
- Sudden emergency moves or change in living conditions or to prevent homelessness
- Safety needs (i.e. lock changes)