

## Montcalm Community College student information regarding HEERF grants due to Coronavirus

Montcalm Community College (MCC) will be receiving funding through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, including: food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

To receive HEERF grants, students must have eligible expenses as noted above and be eligible for the Title IV financial aid as determined by completion and verification of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.gov).

Aid is awarded in the order of application. The base amount of the grant is currently set at \$500 per eligible student and is subject to change based on availability of funds.

Once awarded, students are notified by email of the award. The grant is posted directly to the student account. The grant cannot be applied to charges on the student account.

The IRS determined the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief grant funds are non-taxable. Further details from the IRS regarding the CARES Act HEERF funds are available [by clicking here](#).

Eligibility for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for MCC students is based on financial issues they have had or will face related to the disruption of classes due to Coronavirus, with the top factors being college course materials, technology and Internet access. The MCC CARES Act Committee developed the following guidelines for determining the Emergency Financial Aid Grant amounts, with a maximum value assigned to each category. The committee will review each applicant and use a rubric to determine the amount awarded setting the minimum award at \$500 with no cap on the amount, based on the following guidelines for determining the Emergency Financial Aid Grant amounts:

- \$500 – Housing
- No cap on the amount - Other technology
- \$400 - Food
- \$300 - Internet
- \$200 – Course materials
- \$200 - Childcare
- \$100 - Health care

Each student's situation is evaluated individually based on the information provided in the student's application, and MCC maintains the flexibility to determine the amount awarded per eligible expense to each student on a case-by-case basis.

Effective with publication of the Interim Final Rule on June 17, 2020, only students who are or could be eligible to participate in the Title IV programs under [Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended \(HEA\) \[20 USC 1091\(a\)\]](#), may receive HEERF student grants. To be a Title IV-eligible student under Section 484 of the HEA, the student must:

- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree, certificate or other recognized educational credential (including a program of study abroad approved for credit by the eligible institution at which such student is enrolled)--that is, a regular student under [34 CFR 600.2](#);
- Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school and have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

- Be maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) if the student is a currently enrolled student;
- Not owe an overpayment (refund) on Title IV grants;
- Not be in default on a Title IV loan;
- File with ED “as part of the original financial aid application process” a certification (Statement of Educational Purpose) that includes:
  - A statement of educational purpose, and
  - The student’s Social Security Number (SSN);
- Be a U.S citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen;
- Have returned any fraudulently obtained Title IV funds, if the student is convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to charges;
- Not have fraudulently received Title IV loans in excess of annual or aggregate limits;
- Have repaid any Title IV loan overpayment amounts in excess of annual or aggregate limits, if obtained inadvertently;
- Have his Selective Service registration verified (the Title IV aid ineligibility for failure to register is actually in the Selective Service Act §3811(f));
- Have a valid SSN, except for residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau; **and**
- Not have a federal or state conviction for drug possession or sale, with certain time limitations.

**New Requirement:** The Interim Final Rule also implemented a new requirement that students who receive HEERF grants must be enrolled in a Title IV-eligible program--a requirement that is not part of Section 484.

**Prohibitions:** The Interim Final Rule now explicitly prohibits undocumented students, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, and international students from receiving HEERF grants to students because, according to ED, [8 USC 1611\(a\)](#) of the [Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act](#) (1996 welfare reform law) prohibits these students from receiving federal public benefits.