

## **Wallace Community College Selma CARES Act Funds**

- **Why did I get this money?**
  - The Department of Education has made CARES Act funds available to students who incurred expenses as a result of COVID-19 related disruptions to their campus operations for the spring 2020 term. In our initial round of fund distributions, Wallace Community College Selma identified a pool of eligible students that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 related disruptions to normal campus operations. These students will receive **\$800** immediate assistance grant on under Phase 1 of the distribution process (*continue reading for details on Phase 2 distributions*).
  
- **I got this money as a refund. Does this mean my Wallace Community College Selma account balance has been paid off?**
  - No. Distribution of CARES Act funds is made directly to students and not applied by the College toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by the student. As such, receipt of these funds does not indicate the recipient has satisfied their financial obligations to Wallace Community College Selma for any debts incurred during the spring 2020 term or any terms prior. Please check your current account balance to determine what you may still owe.
  
- **Can I use this money to pay off my Wallace Community College Selma balance?**
  - Yes. Wallace Community College Selma is not authorized to apply CARES Act funds toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by a student. However, once the funds are received as a refund, students may choose to use the funds to pay off their outstanding account balance.
  
- **Can Wallace Community College Selma just apply the funds to my account balance with my approval or permission?**
  - No. Federal regulations stipulate that all CARES Act funds must be disbursed directly to the student and may not be applied toward outstanding balances. To use these funds to pay-off an outstanding balance with Wallace Community College Selma, a student must make a payment to their account through the Cashier's Office or online via *MyWallaceSelma*.
  
- **What are the eligibility criteria to qualify for CARES Act funding?**
  - Based on guidance provided by the Department of Education, students must meet the following eligibility parameters to qualify for CARES Act funds:
    - Be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. (e.g., be eligible

to receive federal financial aid funds such as the Pell Grant, TEACH Grant, Direct Loans, etc.).

- Not enrolled in an exclusively online program on or prior to March 13, 2020.
  - Be a degree-seeking student enrolled in 1 or more credit hours for the Spring 2020 term.
  - High school students are not eligible.
- **Am I eligible to receive CARES Act funds if I have a terminated Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) status?**
    - No. Guidance issued by the Department of Education indicates that students with a terminated SAP status are not eligible for CARES Act fund distributions.
  - **Are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students eligible for CARES Act funds?**
    - No. Guidance issued by the Department of Education indicates that students must be eligible to submit a FAFSA in order to qualify for the CARES Act funds. This limits eligibility to U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or other Title IV eligible non-citizens.
  - **Are international students eligible for CARES Act funds?**
    - No. Guidance issued by the Department of Education indicates that students must be eligible to submit a FAFSA in order to qualify for the CARES Act funds. This limits eligibility to U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or other Title IV eligible non-citizens.
  - **Do I have to pay this money back?**
    - No. Any funds a student receives from the CARES Act will not need to be repaid.
  - **Does this money count against my financial aid package?**
    - No. Money from the CARES Act is not considered financial assistance under federal statute, nor Department of Education regulations. As such, these funds will not impact your eligibility for regular financial aid (e.g., grants, scholarships, loans).
  - **Is money received from the CARES Act considered taxable income?**
    - The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has not yet announced how the funds will be treated for tax purposes.
  - **If I received money from Phase 1 (\$800) but still have need, can I get more money?**
    - Possibly. Phase 2 of the Wallace Community College Selma CARES Act distribution process will be an application-based funding request process. Starting on June 5, 2020 eligible students will be able to request up to \$

500 in Phase 2 CARES Act funds using the application found in the Financial Aid Department.

- **If I did not receive money from Phase 1 will I qualify for Phase 2 distributions?**
  - Possibly. Phase 2 of the Wallace Community College Selma CARES Act distribution process will be an application-based funding request process. Starting on June 5, 2020 eligible students will be able to request up to \$ 500 in Phase 2 CARES Act funds using the application found in the Financial Aid Department.
  
- **When will Phase 2 Close out?**
  - All Phase 2 checks will be processed and mailed on June 18, 2020.