

Charleston Southern University CARES Act Student Grants Policy

Preamble: In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed to provide financial assistance to individuals, families and businesses impacted by this pandemic.

Charleston Southern University will receive \$2,880,272 with one half of this amount (\$1,440,136) that will be used for CARES Act Student Grants and the remainder to be used for institutional costs incurred as a result of the pandemic. This document serves as a policy guide for the use of the CARES Act Student Grants portion of funding.

These grants are separate and distinct from the COVID-19 Student Emergency Care Fund established by the University through the generosity of donors prior to the CARES Act passage.

Section 1: The Purpose

The purpose of these student emergency grants is to directly offset student expenses caused by the change of delivery format. In accord with the agreement between Charleston Southern University and the US Department of Education, the funds are for students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child-care expenses.

Section 2: The Allocation

a) Automatic Disbursements - In order to ensure that students with the greatest need receive financial assistance as soon as possible, the University will distribute one-half of the CARES Act Student Grant funds directly to undergraduate students having an expected family contribution that corresponds with the maximum Pell eligibility for the spring 2020 semester in alignment with federal guidance. Per federal mandate, students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs are not eligible to receive these funds.

b) Application Disbursements - The remaining portion in the CARES Act Student Grant fund will be available to doctorate, graduate and undergraduate students who have documented need above the amount of any relief grants already awarded and who are Title IV student aid eligible. Charleston Southern University encourages all such students to apply for funding if they were or are impacted by the change in delivery of instruction. These applications will be reviewed by the CARES Act Student Grant Committee

Section 3: The Committee

a) The CARES Act Student Grant Committee will be comprised of at least five individuals representing the following areas:

- 1) Student Life
- 2) Financial Aid
- 3) Registrar
- 4) Business Office
- 5) Veterans Services Office

b) The committee will meet electronically, and may conduct its business via email, web conference, and/or tele-conference.

c) The committee shall keep a log of all grant decisions and grant award amounts

Section 4: The Process

a) Eligible students are encouraged to apply via the link that will be distributed after the automatic grants have been disbursed.

b) Upon receipt of such application, the committee shall determine what, if any, documentation is required to confirm eligibility for the funds and shall notify the student.

c) Once all documents are received, the committee shall determine the eligibility of the student, as well as the grant award amount, in compliance with this policy and as detailed throughout this document.

d) If a favorable grant decision is made, the Committee shall notify the Financial Aid office to disburse such funds as are approved by the committee.

Section 5: The Review

a) The institution adopts an upper limit in the amount of \$2,500 per student from all grant funds established to provide financial assistance to students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and administered by the University. This includes the Automatic Disbursements and Application Disbursements of the CARES Act Student Grants as outlined in this policy as well as disbursements from the COVID-19 Student Emergency Care Fund.

b) Unless changed in a later policy announcement by the Department of Education, students ineligible to receive federal financial assistance will receive no consideration.