



CARES Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Proposal

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) provides funds to Ridgewater College for emergency financial aid grants to students for cost of attendance expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

Allocated Amount for Student Grants: \$975,458

Only students actively enrolled in the 2020 Spring Semester as of March 6, 2020 qualify for the CARES grants. Funding will be allocated through three distribution strategies:

ACROSS THE BOARD DISTRIBUTION: approximate \$243,865 (25%)

Every student enrolled in the college on March 6, 2020 that meets CARES Act eligibility requirements will receive a \$125 award. If there is any balance remaining in this account after disbursement of these awards, the balance of funds will shift to the Emergency Grants fund.

NEED-BASED/PELL ELIGIBLE GRANTS: approximate \$489,150 (50%)

All Pell Grant-eligible students enrolled at Ridgewater College who meet the federal program eligibility requirements will receive a grant award based on their enrolled credits for the 2020 Spring Semester as of March 6, 2020. (approx. numbers, waiting for system enrollment report)

	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Total</u>
Full-Time students 12+ credits	517	\$750	\$387,750
¾-Time students 9-11 credits	125	\$500	\$62,500
Half-Time students 6-8 credits	102	\$350	\$35,700
Less than half-time 1-5 credits	<u>16</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$3,200</u>
	760		\$489,150

EMERGENCY GRANTS for students: approximate \$242,443 (25%)

Emergency grants will be distributed to individual students through a simple application and award process based on the six coronavirus criteria (food, housing, course materials, technology, health care & child care). Grants are limited to a **maximum of \$1,000 per student**.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Once the college's plan is approved at the system office, information will be sent to the college community via the college website and an email message to all students and employees. Pell-eligible students enrolled as of March 6, 2020 will be sent a separate email message informing them of their **Need-Based Grant** award with information on the process to disburse the funds. Information on the **Emergency Grant** program will be communicated to all students enrolled as of March 6, 2020 via email and postcard, with a link to the application form on the college website. Social media will also be used to disseminate information to students and the college will work with Student Senate on each campus.