

Dear <STUDENT_NAME>,

On March 27, 2020, the federal government passed the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which allocates emergency relief funding for eligible college students. The funds are intended to help qualified students cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic, including cost-of-attendance eligible expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

You are receiving a CARES Act payment because you met the eligibility requirements set forth in the federal guidelines for emergency grant aid to students which included:

- An individual must have been a student as of March 13, 2020.
- Student must be degree-seeking, enrolled full- or part-time for the Spring 2020 semester.
- Student cannot have been enrolled solely in an online format as of March 13, 2020.
- Student must be eligible to participate in Title IV financial aid programs (Pell Grant, federal student loans, and other federal financial aid programs).
- *High school dual-enrollment students and employees in special-industry training programs do not qualify for the CARES Act emergency grant aid.*

Payments to students will vary, in part because the federal formula allocating funding to each college includes a factor weighted toward the percentage of its students receiving Pell Grants. Chattanooga State determined funds would be allocated to the largest number of students possible due to impacts of COVID-19 related events. Following Secretary of Education DeVos's guidance, Pell eligible students received priority funding. However, based on our institution's determined criteria, certain non-Pell eligible students were also considered eligible for funding. Any disbursed emergency grant funds will be released to you by either refund check or direct deposit, depending on the method you have setup with the college. A payment is not necessarily a reflection of your current student account balance, as these funds are disbursed directly to a student no matter if a current balance is owed to the institution.

Although you are considered qualifying based on institutional criteria and affected by the transition to online learning due to COVID-19, USDOE regulations require funds be used to cover 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). Therefore, any emergency grant funds disbursed to you must be used for such qualifying expenses. Your acceptance of the funding is considered confirmation you have a qualifying expense. If you wish to return the funds to the institution, you must contact the bursar@chattanoogastate.edu.

Click [here](#) to review FAQs provided by the USDOE. If you have questions about the CARES Act payment you received, please contact caresact@chattanoogastate.edu.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ashford, Ed.D.
President
Chattanooga State Community College