



May 5, 2020

## COVID-19 CARES Emergency Grant Fund

The federal government is providing \$6.8 billion of aid to institutions of higher education in order to provide direct, emergency aid grants to students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The purpose of this communication is to update our students on the University's plans to distribute the first half of the CARES Act. The University received a total of \$3,427,905 in federal stimulus funds to be distributed directly to eligible Title IV students for emergency aid as a result of disruptions caused by COVID-19. Specifically, students receiving these funds are assumed to have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Use of Funds-** these funds are intended to cover a student's expenses, including but not limited to, the following:

- Food;
- Housing, such as having to move off campus when dormitories close;
- Course materials;
- Health care;
- Child care;
- Technology-related expenses, such as having to buy a computer when the student's courses are moved online;
- Transportation, such as having to fly home because classes were cancelled or having to return from study abroad when the program is cancelled.

**Opt Out-** If a student does not have COVID-19 expenses, student should email the Financial Aid Office at [finaid-covid19@vsu.edu](mailto:finaid-covid19@vsu.edu).

### **Title IV Eligible Student Requirements:**

- Must have a valid 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file at VSU.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Males must be registered with Selective Service, if required.
- Must not be in default, owe a refund or repayment to a federal financial aid program.
- Must be meeting VSU Financial Aid's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy (<http://www.vsu.edu/financial-aid/sap/index.php> )
- Must be enrolled in a degree seeking program.
- Have not been convicted for the sale or possession of an illegal drug offence that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid.
- Must have been enrolled and validated for at least one credit hour during the spring 2020 semester.



- Cannot have been enrolled 100% in online classes for the spring 2020 semester before March 13, 2020.

**Fund Distribution-** University plans to distribute these emergency funds to Title IV eligible students as follows:

- Pell-eligible students will receive \$995/each (per student – no application required)
- Non Pell-eligible students will receive \$565/each (per student – no application required)
- The University will set aside 10% of the allocation for students with additional emergencies. Student must complete a CARES Emergency Grant Application. (Please email [finaid-covid19@vsu.edu](mailto:finaid-covid19@vsu.edu) for the application.)\_Funding is limited. Shared Governance: The University will use a committee led by the Director of Financial Aid and comprising representation from faculty, staff, Financial Aid Office, Student Accounts Office, Registrar’s Office and ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) to evaluate applications.
- **For questions about CARES Grant eligibility, please email [finaid-covid19@vsu.edu](mailto:finaid-covid19@vsu.edu) .**

The University anticipates disbursing these funds no later than May 30<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to set-up direct deposit at <http://www.vsu.edu/student-accounts/refunds.php> . For questions about refunds, please contact the Student Accounts Office at [bursar@vsu.edu](mailto:bursar@vsu.edu) .

Please continue to visit our [VSU website](#) for additional Coronavirus related updates and the impact it has on the VSU community.