

NGTC - CARES ACT

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law (Pub. L. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020) and established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for colleges to distribute emergency financial aid grants to students and institutions of higher education.

Updated for the period ending December 31, 2020:

Emergency Financial Aid for Students: Disbursement Plan

The U.S. Department of Education (“USDOE”) has allocated \$1,057,016.00 to North Georgia Technical College (“the college”) for these emergency financial aid grants to students. The college has signed and returned to the USDOE the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the College intends to use no less than 50% of the funds allocated under Section 18804(a)(1) of the CARE Act for students. These funds, provided directly to students, are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students who meet basic eligibility criteria for federal financial aid (Title IV) funding were considered for the HEERF. Information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) were used to determine eligibility for Emergency Grant Funds.

Student Eligibility:

- Active enrollment on March 13, 2020 for a minimum of one (1) credit hour in a Title IV eligible program that leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree
- Have completed a FAFSA for the 2019-2020 aid year with all C codes on FAFSA cleared
- Have a FASFA that does not have any outstanding verification requirements
- Have met all requirements for admission
- Have a Spring term Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) code status of good standing, warning or an approved Academic Plan

Students Not Eligible for Emergency Grant Funds:

Student populations determined as not eligible for Emergency Grant Funds as defined by the U. S. Department of Education:

- Dual Enrolled High School Students
- Foreign students to include DACA students
- Transient students – these students may receive funds from home institution
- Students having defaulted on student loans, overpayments or have other loan restrictions.
- Students enrolled in Minimester A courses that ended prior to March 13, 2020

Process for Awarding and Disbursing Emergency Funds to Students:

Based on the eligibility requirements above, the college initially identified 1,339 students who met eligibility requirements to receive Emergency Grant Funds. The college disbursed funds to those students determined to be eligible. There were 535 students enrolled in the

spring who had unmet eligibility requirements to receive Emergency Grant funds. Funds were awarded by the Financial Aid Department and disbursed to student accounts. Each student account showed a credit balance. Since CARES Act funds cannot be used to cover tuition and fees, the award generated a refund. The Business Office disbursed the credit balance to BankMobile for release to the student.

The college subsequently determined that there were approximately 130 students enrolled in the spring term who may be eligible with the completion of the 2019-2020 FAFSA.

The College disbursed funds to two cohorts: Cohort 1 from the Spring term and Cohort 2 from the Summer term.

Identification of Cohort 1:

Cohort 1 consisted of those students who have already completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2019-2020 and have met all eligibility requirements stated above. The college initially identified 1,339 students for Cohort 1 who were enrolled in a Title IV eligible program as having completed a 2019-2020 FAFSA with no outstanding documents.

The total funding amount allocated to Cohort 1 was \$712,792.74 resulting in an award of \$532.73 per student.

Identification of Cohort 2:

The college subsequently determined that students who were eligible for Emergency Grant Funds from the spring term and enrolled in the summer term continued to face impact from the COVID-19 virus. Cohort 2 consisted of students who were determined to be eligible for Emergency Grant Funds from the Spring term who continued credit enrollment in the Summer term. There were 815 students registered for a credit class in the summer term who were eligible to receive emergency grant funding in the spring term. These students continued to meet all eligibility requirements as stated above.

Students attending the Spring term who did not complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA prior to the disbursement to Cohort 1 were considered for Cohort 2 if they submitted a 2019-2020 FAFSA and met all eligibility requirements as stated above by June 1, 2020. Student Affairs contacted this group of students and offered assistance with filing a FAFSA application by the stated deadline.

The total funding amount allocated to the Cohort 2 during the Summer term to summer students who were enrolled in spring term was \$228,872.41.

The total funding amount allocated to spring students who did meet the eligibility requirements at the time of disbursement of Cohort 1, but later became eligible was \$115,350.85

Should any Emergency Grant funds remain following the distribution to Cohort 2, the college will disburse the balance of remaining funds to the eligible students identified in

Cohort 1 and Cohort 2. Funds were disbursed prior to the completion of the Summer term. The College sent an email and text once the funds were disbursed to student accounts.

The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant as of December 31, 2020, was 1,556.

If you have questions about these Student Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CARES Act, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@northgatech.edu