

OCVTS EMERGENCY CARES ACT GRANTS

The United States Department of Education announced the specific funding that has been allocated to every postsecondary institution in the nation through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress and signed into law. Ocean County Vocational Technical Schools will receive funds under the CARES Act to provide emergency grants to students with unforeseen emergency expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Eligible expenses include items in the student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

Eligibility Criteria: Students who are eligible to receive federal financial aid (Title IV eligible) and are enrolled in a program that met on-campus prior to the transition to online classes due to COVID-19 can be considered for the CARES Act emergency grants.

OCVTS aims to assist as many students as possible in meeting their emergency financial needs during this challenging time. We are all here to support you.

Below are the answers to frequently asked questions about the CARES Act Emergency Grants:

What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocates funds to support individuals and businesses/organizations affected by the pandemic and economic downturn. The Act includes several sources of funds for colleges and universities, including the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

What is the CARES Act emergency grants?

OCVTS will receive funds under the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include items in the student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.

Who is eligible to receive the CARES Act emergency grants? If I am eligible, how do I apply?

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the CARES Act emergency grant funding is available to students who are eligible to receive federal financial aid and are enrolled in a program that met on-campus prior to the transition to online classes due to COVID-19.

The financial aid office will determine if the student meets the financial aid eligibility requirements based on the FAFSA on file. The criteria to participate in programs include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting. Students must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program, must be making Satisfactory Progress, sign the statement of educational purpose and not be in default on a Title IV federal student loan or owe a refund on a Title federal student grant or loan overpayment. Currently enrolled students who do not meet the eligibility requirements for the CARES Act grants are (International, DACA and students who are enrolled in an exclusive online degree program).

What are the types of expenses covered by CARES Act funding?

Eligible expenses associated with your enrollment at OCVTS for CARES Act funding include, food (ex. food expenses due to cancelation of college meal plans or campus dining plans), housing (ex. housing expenses due to cancelation of campus housing, dorm or student's residence), technology expenses, academic course materials, health care, child care and other unexpected expenses included in the student's cost of attendance.

If I receive funding, will it negatively affect my existing financial aid package?

Funding from the CARES Act emergency fund will not affect a student's financial aid package.

How will I receive my funds?

If funding is approved, the grant funds will be disbursed in the form of a check to the student.

PAPER CHECK BY MAIL

Emergency refund check will be mailed to student's permanent home address on file. Please note that checks are mailed by default. It is crucial for students to make sure they always have their current address on file.

Can OCVTS apply my CARES Grant directly to my outstanding balance?

No. The CARES Act requires institutions to provide the emergency financial aid grants to students. The CARES Act emergency financial aid grants cannot be used to cover and satisfy a student's outstanding account balance. The student may use his or her emergency financial aid grant for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Whom can I contact if I have questions about the OCVTS CARES Act Emergency

Grants and/or need help?

Please email us at ggiglio@mail.ocvts.org. We are all here to support you during this challenging time.