

UPDATED OCTOBER 26, 2020



Dear Eastern Students,

Eastern's Faculty and Staff are concerned for your safety and well-being during these trying times. The move to online instruction has presented many challenges in your effort to meet your educational goals. We know many of you have faced job losses, childcare challenges, lack of internet access, as well as, many other issues. We want you to know you are not alone and we are here to help.

As part of the CARES Act passed by Congress, colleges and universities across the country received nearly \$14 billion in emergency funding, in which \$6 billion was set aside for cash grants to assist students. Eastern was a recipient of the emergency funds and we are developing a process for how the funds will disburse to students.

In keeping with the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Eastern WV CTC is prioritizing the grants to students with the greatest financial need. Some, but not all, of our enrolled students will receive cash grant funding; for instance, students who enrolled in 100% online programs are not eligible to receive this funding.

For the Fall 2020 semester, Eastern's Business Office will be disbursing awards in the amount of \$465 to eligible students. Students who meet our qualifying criteria will receive an email from Monica Wilson, Dean of Student Access and Success. The email will provide additional information regarding eligibility for funds and will include an attachment and link to our certification form. You must submit the certification form within two weeks of receipt to apply for the funds.

If you are eligible to receive the grant, the award will be available to view on your MyEastern account. We ask you to ensure your mailing address is active with Eastern.

Thank you.



CARES ACT

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College (E WVCTC) acknowledges that the institution signed April 13, 2020 and returned April 16, 2020 to the US Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form. The institution intends to use no less than \$105,944 of the funds received under Section 18004 (a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid grants to students. Eastern has received \$105,944 for Emergency Financial Aid grants to students. The award date was May 5, 2020. As of October 26, 2020, \$46,141 have been distributed to 101 students for the Spring 2020 semester. These awards were calculated using the previously-employed formula-based award system. The total number of eligible students for Spring 2020 awards was 121.

For the Fall 2020 semester, Eastern's Business Office will be disbursing awards in the amount of \$465 to eligible students. The total number of eligible students for Fall 2020 awards is 127. Students who meet our qualifying criteria received an email from Monica Wilson, Dean of Student Access and Success. The email provided additional information regarding eligibility for funds.

Students must submit the certification form within two weeks of receipt to apply for the funds. Eligible students received a student specific email with the certification form attached on October 26, 2020.

CARES ACT FAQ as of October 26, 2020

Who qualifies for CARES Act Emergency Grants for Fall 2020?

Fall CARES Act Emergency Grants are available to eligible students attending Fall 2020 with enrollment periods that include October 26, 2020. Federal guidelines state that students must:

- Be an U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Not have withdrawn during the fall term

Note: Federal guidelines also state that students enrolled in programs that were exclusively online even before the COVID-19 outbreak are ineligible for the grant.

Do I need to submit an application to be considered for Fall CARES Act Emergency Grants?

Yes. You will receive an individualized link to your application via email from Monica Wilson. Once you click the link, you must complete the required fields on the form and then click the submit button.

What documentation is required to be submitted with the application?

No documentation is required but students should be prepared to sign a certification that the expenses were incurred as a result of disruption in education caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

Will the grant apply to the balance due on my account?

No, these emergency grants from the CARES Act will not apply to any outstanding balances. It is your choice if you would like to use your emergency grant to make a payment on your balance due, if applicable.

Is the CARES Act taxable?

No, the CARES Act is NOT considered to be taxable income.

Do I have to repay the CARES refund?

No, the funds are designed to be a grant, not a loan.

Will the CARES Act affect my financial aid?

No, CARES Grants do not reduce nor replace financial aid now or in the future.

It is a one-time grant intended to cover expenses related to the COVID-19 Emergency. This may include housing, food, child-care, transportation, school supplies or computer/internet expenses associated with online learning.