

CARES Act/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

October 2, 2020

On April 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education announced that more than \$6 billion would be distributed to colleges and universities through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), authorized by the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Each HEERF participating institution is required to make public the following information:

Certification and Agreement

Glen Oaks Community College has signed and returned the HEERF Certification and Agreement forms to the Department of Education. The College intends to use the HEER funds to make emergency financial aid grants available to students.

Emergency Grant Fund Awards

The total amount of funds received by the college for the student portion of the CARES Act/HEER funding was \$288,341.

By August, the College had awarded \$237,883 of HEERF for a remaining balance of \$50,458 to be used in the Fall term. As of the quarterly report for September 30, 2020, 119 of 411 eligible students applied for and received emergency grants. The college awarded \$44,450 in grant funds in the month of September. Since the receipt of HEER funds, Glen Oaks has distributed a total of \$282,333 to students, leaving \$6,008 available for future Fall applicants.

Students may view the amount of emergency grant funds through My Awards in the Financial Aid Tile via myGOCC. Fall disbursements occurred on a bi-weekly basis.

Methods for Determining Eligibility and Distribution of Funds

The college's method for distributing funds in the Fall 2020 semester was a combination of the processes used in the Winter and Summer terms. Students were required to apply for a grant, and award amounts were determined by the student's explanation of need and enrollment intensity. This, again, was an effort to spread the funding as widely as possible to students in need.

The college followed the ED guidelines to determine student eligibility for HEERF.

According to the ED, students:

- Cannot be enrolled in a program or degree offered exclusively online.
- Must be eligible for Title IV (federal financial aid) funds
 - US citizenship
 - Completion of a current FAFSA at fafsa.gov
 - Valid social security number
 - [Registered with the Selective Service](#) (Males over age 18)
 - High school diploma, GED or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting
 - Enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate
 - Met Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
 - Cannot be in default on federal student loans

The Vice President of Student Services notified all students via email of the availability of, and eligibility requirements of, the CARES Act/HEER funding during all semesters in which funds were available. This communication was also posted on the glenoaks.edu/coronavirus web page created specifically for COVID-19 related updates. Information was provided to local media outlets and was also posted on the college's social media accounts. The Financial Aid Office sent individual communications via text and email to students who needed to verify eligibility. Academic Advisors sent text messages to students to notify them of available grants.

Guidance Provided to Students

Students were provided information on the application process and eligibility requirements via their Viking email. The college also informed students they could view the award amounts in My Awards in the Financial Aid tile in myGOCC, the student portal. Students were also notified via email that the HEER funds could be used toward any expenses related to the disruption of campus operations, including costs of course materials, food, technology, housing, healthcare, and childcare.

A letter accompanied the grant checks with an overview of the HEERF and a list of eligible expenditures for the funds. The Business Office encouraged students, in these letters, to contact their local tax advisor for information on any tax implications regarding emergency funding.

