



# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Report Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

**June 18, 2020**

**Augusta Technical College (OPE ID: 005599)** received education stabilization funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Public Law No: 116-136. This Fund Report applies to the student portion received under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that is designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

The college appreciates that Congress and the President have made these critical funds available for eligible students who have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. We take receipt of these federal funds seriously and are distributing them in accordance with the CARES Act and implementing guidance.

The college is making the below information available for transparency purposes and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education’s (“Department”) Electronic Announcement of May 6, 2020.<sup>[1]</sup> For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Cicely Harpe, Director of Financial Aid, [charpe@augustatech.edu](mailto:charpe@augustatech.edu).

1. The college signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The college has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds that the college will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the college’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is **\$2,193,339**
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **\$2,193,339**
4. The estimated total number of students at the college eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, as of the date of this Fund Report is **2,279**
5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is **2,279**
6. The methods used by the college to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act are provided at **Attachment A**.

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the college to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants are provided at **Attachment B**.

## **Attachment A**

### ***CARES Act Emergency Relief Funds for Eligible Students***

[1] See: <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>

As provided in the CARES Act legislation, the U.S. Department of Education has authorized emergency financial aid to students through the CARES Act to address financial needs due to the disruption of campus operations from COVID-19. Students are eligible for the CARES Act funding if they meet the specific criteria according to the guidance released from the U.S. Department of Education.

For the full CARES Act legislation, please visit: <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/s3548/BILLS-116s3548is.pdf>

For a summary of eligibility guidance from the U. S. Department of Education, please visit: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf>

### ***CARES Act for Augusta Technical College Students***

Augusta Technical College (ATC) signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education on April 15, 2020 for the CARES Act Grant in the amount of \$2,193,339 to be distributed to eligible students.

#### ***First Distribution Plan – Expected Release May 15, 2020***

Under the current guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia, Augusta Technical College will award CARES Act Emergency Relief funds in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Spring Semester 2020 enrolled students who meet the following eligibility criteria on or before April 27, 2020.

#### ***Who is eligible?***

To be eligible for CARES Act Funding for the first distribution, students must meet the following requirements:

- Was enrolled in at least one on-campus class as of March 14, 2020 (Spring Semester 2020) in a Title IV eligible program leading to a certificate, diploma, or degree
- Meets Title IV eligibility for Federal Financial Aid for the 19-20 Aid Year as of April 27, 2020.
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) status must be in good or warning status, on an approved SAP appeal, or SAP Continuation Plan for Spring 2020.

#### ***Who is not eligible?***

The following students are not eligible for CARES Act Funds under the first Distribution Plan:

- Dual Enrolled High School students
- Transients (host)
- DACA/Foreign Students
- Special Admit Students
- Students with defaulted federal student loans, overpayments or other loan eligibility restrictions
- Were only enrolled in a Part of Term that ended prior to March 14, 2020
- Were only enrolled in online/distance education classes for Spring Semester 2020
- Withdrew from all Spring 2020 courses prior to March 14, 2020
- Have outstanding FAFSA verification requirements
- Students on financial aid suspension (paying out of pocket to attend)

## **Second Distribution Plan – Expected Release Date June 18, 2020**

Augusta Technical College will award the remaining CARES Act Emergency Relief funds to students who met some of the eligibility requirements after the first disbursement and any students who are considered eligible at the time of the distribution based on revised or updated guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia. Each student will be awarded \$360.75.

## **Attachment B**

### ***How will the money be disbursed?***

Funds will be disbursed via direct deposit or check. Please be sure that your refund preference is set. For more information to enter direct deposit information, please visit: <https://www.augustatech.edu/student-resources/direct-deposit.cms>. Some students who qualify for this funding may not have received refunds from the college in the past and, as a result have not established a refund preference. In order to receive the funds timely, students must specify their refund preference in their Smartweb account.

### ***What are the options for receiving my refund?***

There are two options available:

1. Electronic deposit to an established account at a financial institution of your choice. *(Please note: If your account is already entered, please confirm that your financial institution and account information are correct).*
2. Check by mail to address on student account. *(Please note: Local financial institutions do charge a fee to cash checks for those who do not already have an established account with a local financial institution. Options 1 is highly encouraged).*

### ***If I already have a refund preference established for previous refunds issued, will I receive this refund the same way?***

Yes, unless you make a change prior to the disbursement date.

### ***How do I change a refund preference that was previously set up?***

Go to <https://www.augustatech.edu/student-resources/direct-deposit.cms>.

### ***How quickly will the funds be deposited into my account?***

This depends on your financial institution's processes and policies. Some funds may be available immediately and others may be the following business day.

### ***How can I get additional assistance?***

Email the Augusta Technical College support team, Financial Aid Office, [finaid@augustatech.edu](mailto:finaid@augustatech.edu), or Student Accounts, [stu.accounts@augustatech.edu](mailto:stu.accounts@augustatech.edu).