

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cares Act Emergency Grant Information

On April 9, 2020, the Department of Education announced a series of grants as part of the Federal Government's CARES Act legislation in response to COVID-19. One of the government grants was intended to provide direct emergency financial aid to students given the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.

Due to an administrative oversight within the Department of Education's CARES Act distribution process, Williamson was initially not included in the Department's grant distribution. The college administration, supported by local congressional representatives and senators, has worked hard since April to secure grant funding for our students. We are pleased to say that we finally received our funding on October 26, 2020.

Williamson College of the Trades signed and returned to the Federal Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the college intends to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The college received a total amount of \$432,861.00 in CARES Act funding. In accordance with CARES Act guidance, \$216,431.00 will be allocated to Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

As a result, all graduates of Class 2W0 as well as the current student body (as of October 26th, 2020) will receive an emergency grant in the amount of \$682.75. This individual amount was determined by dividing the total grant amount to the college for Emergency Financial Aid Grants (\$216,431.00) by the total number of eligible students and graduates (317) identified in the previous classification. All students and graduates were eligible under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Please note as a grant, this does not need to be repaid, it is funding allocated solely for your use as per guidelines highlighted below.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is eligible?

All graduates of the Class of 2W0, as well as all current students (as of October 26, 2020) are eligible to receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant in accordance with Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

The college will be disbursing grant checks directly to current students on November 5, 2020 and will be mailing checks to graduates of the Class of 2W0 on November 6, 2020 to the mailing addresses on file. Graduates of the Class of 2W0 who have not received a check, should contact the college's Business Office at (610) 566-1776, extension 226, to ensure the college has their updated mailing address on file. Prior to disbursement, the college sent numerous notices through email, text, and social media requesting the Class of 2W0 review, and update if needed, their current mailing address.

What does the CARES Grant Cover?

In accordance with Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, no less of 50% of the total CARES Act funding received by a college/university must be allocated to Student Emergency Financial Grants. CARES Act grants may be used for (but not limited to) expenses incurred under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

Grant Usage: Will funding be applied against an existing balance owed to the college?

No. The grant is directly paid to you. Under CARES Act legislation, the college is not allowed to apply the grant to any balance owed, even with your permission.

If I receive a CARES ACT grant, is it included in my gross income?

No. Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act are for unexpected expenses incurred under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. As qualified disaster relief payments, per section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code, this grant is not included in your gross income.

If you have any questions about the CARES Act Grants, please contact:

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