

## **CARES Act Student Emergency Fund FAQ – Spring 2021**

1. Who is eligible for assistance from the *CARES Act Student Emergency Fund*?
  - Students who are enrolled in a credit, degree or certificate program for the Spring 2021 Semester;
    - Have registered for Spring 2021 Semester.
    - Have payment or payment plan confirmed for Spring 2021 Semester.
    - Have filed the 2020-21 FAFSA and are eligible for Title IV (federal financial aid) funds.
    - Have NOT received CARES Act Student Emergency Funds in a previous semester.
2. What is Title IV (federal financial aid) eligibility?
  - To determine Title IV eligibility, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)).
    - The completion of the 2020-2021 FAFSA is required.
    - If selected for federal financial aid process called ‘verification’, complete the verification review process and submit appropriate documentation.
  - See the [Student Financial Aid page](#) for general Title IV eligibility requirements.
3. Am I eligible for CARES Act funding if I am enrolled in any Spring 2021 semester courses?
  - You may qualify for assistance if you are enrolled in a credit, degree, or certificate program, and demonstrate emergency expenses or disruption related to COVID-19.
4. Am I eligible for CARES Act funding if some of my Spring 2021 courses will be in-person and some will be taken online?
  - Yes. CARES funds are to assist students whose enrollment at the college is at risk due to financial challenges and unexpected financial emergencies related to the disruption of on-campus services and the current Coronavirus COVID-10 pandemic; however, you must also be eligible for Title IV financial assistance.
5. Am I eligible for CARES Act funding if all of my courses are already being delivered online?
  - No. Students whose courses and programs are normally all on-line do not qualify for assistance.
6. What are “emergency expenses or disruptions related to COVID-19”?
  - This refers to expenses incurred due to changes in your educational environment; including food costs, housing costs, technology needs, course materials, child care emergencies, additional medical costs due to COVID-19, and other related expenses.
7. Are international students eligible for CARES Act funding?
  - No. A student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen to receive funds.
8. Are College Credit Plus students eligible for CARES Act funding?
  - No. One of the Title IV eligibility requirements is a high school diploma or equivalent.

9. Are students in noncredit workforce programs eligible for CARES Act Student Emergency Funds?
  - No. A student must be enrolled in a credit-bearing degree or certificate program to receive funds.
10. Can I apply for the CARES Act Student Emergency Fund if I already received other Tri-C emergency grant?
  - Students who have received a CARES Act grant in a previous semester are not eligible to apply for CARES Act funds for the Spring 2021 Semester.
  - If you have received other Tri-C emergency grant funds in Fall 2020 Semester, please contact Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office for CARES eligibility requirements.
11. How do I apply for assistance through the CARES Act Student Emergency Fund?
  - Contact a Student Financial Aid advisor via [Live Chat](#), call 216-987-6000, Option #2, or email [financialaid@tri-c.edu](mailto:financialaid@tri-c.edu).
12. How will I know if my application is approved?
  - Students will be notified of their application status through their [My Tri-C Space](#); go to Financial Aid and Scholarships under the Paying for College Tab. Please allow up to 5 business days for processing.
13. If I'm on a tuition payment plan, can I use these funds to pay off my balance?
  - CARES Act funds must be awarded directly to students. The College cannot apply them toward an outstanding balance.
14. How will I receive the funds if I qualify?
  - Students who are approved for CARES Act funding will receive the funds by direct deposit to their bank account, or by check sent via USPS mail.
15. When will I receive the funds if I qualify?
  - Please allow 3 business days from the date your CARES application is approved to receive funds. You may need to allow additional time for the receipt of funds that are not direct deposit.
16. Are there other resources that can help me if I'm not eligible for CARES Act funding?
  - Yes. If your financial situation has changed due to change of income or loss of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships team can help you update your FAFSA if appropriate, and determine your eligibility for other financial aid options, including the Full Tuition Assistance Program and other Tri-C scholarships opportunities.
  - The Project GO! team can also refer you to public benefits resources.