

CARES Act Student Grants

New River CTC will receive \$344,491 to distribute to students from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)—the federal program to assist those students impacted by the Coronavirus. The grants are to assist students whose educational experience has been disrupted and is to help with costs incurred during this difficult time.

In order to be eligible to receive the student emergency grant, the following criteria must be met. The criteria was established by the federal Department of Education, and New River CTC will deploy the grants based on the following specifications.

1. Students must have been enrolled in at least one credit bearing class at New River CTC on March 27, 2020, which is the day the legislation was signed into federal law, in order to be eligible.
2. If a student withdrew from New River CTC after March 27, 2020, the student will still be eligible for the grant.
3. The amount of money the student will receive is based on the number of attempted credit hours in classes that required a student to come to a New River CTC location. The maximum allowable number of hours is 12, which is the federal definition of a full-time student. The number of hours a student attempted divided by 12 gives what percent of the full award is to be received.
 - a. Classes that were online prior to the pandemic are not eligible to be used in calculating hours toward the grant award; therefore, any online classes in a student's hours attempted will be removed prior to finalizing the student's hours attempted.
 - b. IVN courses, because students had to be present at New River CTC location to receive instruction, will be eligible for the grant.
 - c. Zoom courses, prior to the pandemic, will not be included in a student's hours attempted for the grant amount because students were not required to be present at a New River CTC location to receive instruction.
4. Examples of attempted hours calculations:
 - a. Example 1: a student attempting 15 credit hours, but 6 of those hours were WEB based classes, the payment will be based on 9 credit hours, or 75% of the full amount.
 - b. Example 2: a student attempting 12 credit hours with all hours taking place at a physical location, the payment will be the full amount.
 - c. Example 3: a student attempted 15 credit hours with all hours in WEB based classes is ineligible to receive any amount.

5. Students must be eligible to receive federal financial aid to receive this grant.
 - a. Students who already have a completed FAFSA on file with Financial Aid at New River CTC and who are already receiving federal financial aid will have met this requirement.
 - b. Students who do not have a completed FAFSA will be contacted and encouraged to complete the form. Failure to complete the form means the student is ineligible to receive this grant.
 - c. After a completed form is evaluated, if a student does not meet the qualifications for federal financial aid, the student will not receive this grant.
6. Eligible students who owe money to New River CTC will not see a reduction in their CARES Act payment.
7. Eligible students will receive their grants through direct deposit if New River CTC has account information on file or through a check mailed to their homes.
 - a. In order to ensure checks are received, students should verify that New River CTC has their correct mailing address.
 - b. In order to establish direct deposit, students can download the form from the College's website, complete it, and mail the documentation to the College.
8. Students receiving the grant do not have to account for how they spend their grant.
9. The grant will not impact the student's future eligibility for federal financial aid and the total amount received will not be held against the student when future financial aid awards are made.
10. Based on the available information, the grant award should not be counted as income for tax purposes.
11. Unfortunately, students who are still in high school, are incarcerated, are in workforce programs, or are taking community education courses are not eligible for this grant.
12. New River CTC anticipates starting the disbursement process on May 15, 2020. If the funds and the processes are in place prior to this date, New River CTC will start the disbursement sooner.
13. Questions relating to the CARES Act grants should go to the Student Success Centers.