

CARES ACT – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the CARES Act?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by the United State Congress to provide economic relief from COVID-19. Part of the Act establishes the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), which includes money for emergency financial aid grants to be provided directly to students for expenses related to the disruption of classes and/or life circumstances due to the pandemic.

How will I know if I can get a CARES Act grant?

Only students who are eligible for Federal Financial Aid can receive a CARES Act grant, per Federal guidelines. These eligibility criteria are listed on the CARES Act notice posted to the VVC website, and outlined in the FAFSA application <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid>

VVC has also created a fund for non-FAFSA eligible students. These funds can be requested using the same application, located on the VVC website.

I requested an EW. Am I still eligible?

Students enrolled as of census (March 2 for a typical 16 week class) are eligible for a CARES Act grant.

I was enrolled in on-line classes prior to the coronavirus and movement to remote learning. Am I eligible?

Students enrolled exclusively in online classes prior to March 13 are not eligible for CARES Act \$.

I am not FAFSA eligible. How can I get help for coronavirus-related expenses?

The College, in partnership with the VVC Foundation, has made additional funds available for students who are not eligible for the CARES Act. Using the same application, indicate that you are applying for College/Foundation funds.

What do I have to do to receive a CARES Act grant?

1. *Apply for or have a complete 19-20 FAFSA on file with the VVC financial aid office.
 - a. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid>*
2. *Submit a simple CARES Act application (available on the main VVC website)*
3. *Check your VVC email for confirmation and next steps information.*
4. *Submit a 20-21 FAFSA for access to CARES Act funds for the Fall semester (available in August)*

Can I still complete a FAFSA for spring 2020?

Yes. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid>

Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible to be considered for a CARES Act grant. Priority is given to students whose application is submitted by May 31.

Will I need a new FAFSA to get access to Phase III funds in the Fall?

Yes. A 20-21 FAFSA application will need to be completed and on-file for consideration of CARES Act funding for Fall, 2020 (available in August)

When will I get my CARES Act grant?

You will receive your CARES Act grant through BankMobile.

College funds will be sent in the form of a check to the address indicated on the application.

What is BankMobile? How will I receive my CARES Act grant if I do not have a BankMobile account?

You must have a BankMobile account to receive your CARES Act financial aid grant.

If you do not have a BankMobile account and need help creating one, contact BankMobile at 1-866-782—0821 confirm

How can I use my CARES Act funds?

Grant funds are for expenses related to the disruption of life circumstances and/or classes due to the coronavirus pandemic; eligible expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare. You will not be required to submit receipts or other documentation of how you spend your funds.

What if I owe VVC a balance on my student account?

You can still receive a CARES Act grant or a College/Foundation emergency grant if you have a balance on your student account. The college will not deduct any fees from your grant; however, any balances will remain on your account. We encourage you to develop a plan to take care of these unpaid fees.

How did VVC decide the award amounts for CARES Act funds?

The amount provided to each student was determined by a variety of factors including information submitted as part of the FAFSA application, total number of enrolled units, changes to employment, and head of household status.

VVC is committed to providing financial support to as many students as possible.

I didn't get an award, but think I am eligible. Who can I contact?

Contact Victor Valley College Financial Aid

Phone: (760) 245-4271, ext. 2277

Email: FinancialAid@vvc.edu

Is the CARES Act grant part of my financial aid?

The CARES Act Grant or Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is separate from your financial aid package but you must still meet the Title IV FAFSA eligibility requirements.

My financial situation has changed a lot due to the coronavirus pandemic. What should I do to make sure I am getting the most possible financial aid

Reach out to the Financial Aid office. There may be a way to adjust your eligibility based on the current situation. Apply for scholarships but watch out for scams. Never pay to look for a scholarship. Follow-up on any requirements that need to be met to finalize your eligibility.

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