

## **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.*

### **Who is eligible for a CARES Act grant?**

Registered VVC students in good standing who are pursuing classes toward an educational goal are eligible to apply for financial grants to assist with school expenses and/or basic needs.

Grants will be awarded as funding allows throughout the semester.

Students will be notified via their vvc.edu email alerting them that a disbursement has been made for them. (*Hint: connect your student.vvc.edu email with your personal email...easy!*)

### **How much financial grant money can I get?**

We are committed to fund as many students as possible as funding allows. We make financial aid grants available to students throughout the semester to allow them the best opportunity for completion.

Funds are prioritized to students who are registered, making progress toward a goal, and complete an application. Awards are made based on the number of units in which a student is enrolled.

12+ units = \$500; 9 – 11 units = \$400; 3 – 8 units = \$300

Students are limited to \$500 per month, and \$1,000 per semester

### **How will I get my grant money?**

Victor Valley College has partnered with Bankmobile to conveniently deliver your Financial Aid disbursements including the CARES Act/HEERF award.

If you qualify you will receive your refund selection kit in a bright green envelope in the mail from Bankmobile within 7-10 days of awarding with an access code to choose your preference. Once you create your account, you can choose to get a debit card/bank account through Bankmobile or have your funds directly deposited into your personal bank account. All mail correspondence from Bankmobile will be made via your Victor Valley College student email. Please make sure you have a valid student.vvc.edu email and an updated mailing address on file.

More information can be found here: <http://www.vvc.edu/offices/financial-aid/rams-card.shtml>

**I already receive financial aid. Am I able to get a CARES Act grant as well?**

Yes. Students who demonstrate high need based on their financial aid application (FAFSA) are given priority aid.

**I am in a support program and already receive book vouchers. Can I still apply for a grant?**

Yes. Students may use these grants to support basic needs as well – food, housing, child care.

**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, 2020 are not eligible for CARES Act \$.

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

All currently registered VVC students are eligible to apply for CARES Act grants. Students who find themselves in unique circumstances can also apply through the VVC Foundation.

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

1. Submit a simple CARES Act application (available on the main VVC website)
2. Check your VVC email for confirmation and next steps information.

**Can I still complete a FAFSA for Fall 2020 and/or Spring 2021?**

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

The 20-21 FAFSA is also open for application. Priority funding is available to students who apply by March 2 each year.

**When will I get my CARES Act grant?**

Disbursement dates are set with the county and published on the website. Specific information will be available via your student.vvc.edu email.

**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 is determined by a variety of factors including financial need and total number of enrolled units. VVC is committed to providing financial support to as many students as possible.

Funds are prioritized to students who are registered, making progress toward a goal, and complete an application.

Awards are made based on the number of units in which a student is enrolled.

12+ units = \$500; 9 – 11 units = \$400; 3 – 8 units = \$300

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

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