

CARES Act (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund)
Rio Hondo Cares Student Relief Fund

The funding received from the U.S. Department of Education is based on a calculated formula set by the federal government. To date, Rio Hondo College has received funding totaling \$6,232,776. Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act requires the College to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received to assist students with expenses directly related to disruptions in study related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rio Hondo will distribute \$3,116,387 (50%) to eligible students. To date, the College has awarded \$830,400 to 2,120 students

The CARES Act allows institutions to continue to pay Federal Work Study students who were working prior to the pandemic through the remainder of their academic year. To date, Rio Hondo has paid 85 Federal Work Study students wages for their normally scheduled hours, totaling approximately \$52,000.

On May 12, 2020, students received information via email, and through Canvas regarding the **Rio Cares Student Relief Fund** outlining grant options available to all eligible students. In order to be considered for CARES Act federal funds, a student must file or have filed a 2019-2020 FAFSA and met all Federal Title IV eligibility requirements. Students have up to **June 15, 2020** to submit the FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic school year and were encouraged to file their FAFSAs.

Students who meet the federal eligibility criteria and as of May 12th were enrolled in a minimum of 6 units received \$300, if enrolled in 12 or more units, the student received \$500. Students receiving a grant were **automatically** awarded through the regular Financial Aid disbursement process on May 22nd. If a student does not have a BankMobile account, the process will take a few additional days and the student will receive a check in the mail. **No applications were required.** Rio Hondo estimates that there are 5,387 students who meet the eligibility requirements to receive a grant from the **Rio Cares Student Relief Fund**. Due to limited funds, Rio Hondo College developed the funding criteria.

To date, Rio Hondo College distributed the following **Rio Cares Student Relief Fund** grants: 1,148 students received grants of \$300 each for a total of \$344,400, and 972 students received grants of \$500 each, for a total of \$486,000.

Limited **Emergency Grants** were also made available to assist students who are struggling with expenses and/or an unforeseen financial challenge—such as housing, food, childcare, transportation, medical bills, or educational supplies. The **Emergency Grant** Application was made available to students from Wednesday, May 13th at 9 a.m. through Friday, May 15th at 11:59 p.m. on Rio Hondo's website: www.riohondo.edu/emergency-grants. Rio Hondo hopes to provide more than 500 additional students approximately \$200,000 in **Emergency grants**. The grants will range between \$300 and \$500 per student and will be distributed by June 19, 2020.

Students are eligible to receive one grant. To be eligible for both the **Rio Cares Student Relief Fund** grant and the **Emergency grant**, students must:

- File or have filed a FAFSA for 2019-2020 and be eligible for federal financial aid. Students who file a 2019-2020 FAFSA by June 15th may be awarded this grant if they meet all other criteria;
- Be currently enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit units for \$300 or 12 credits for \$500;
- Have a \$0 Expected Family Contribution (EFC);
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements; and
- If male, between the ages of 18 and 25, be registered with the Selective Service System.

Separate from the CARES Act, Rio Hondo is committed to providing assistance as quickly as possible to students who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rio Hondo has made available a variety of financial as well as non-financial resources to students, additional information can be found at: <https://www.riohondo.edu/student-health-services/coronavirus/#students>

Rio Hondo College is working to support all students during this time. For questions, please e-mail covidgrants@riohondo.edu or call the Financial Aid office at (562) 463-3370.

Department of Education, CARES Act Funding: Report #1