

CARES Act (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund)

**Report #2: Funds Distribution Direct to Students**

**October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

The funding received from the U.S. Department of ED is based on a calculated formula set by the federal government. Rio Hondo College 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 distributed \$3,116,387 (50%) to eligible students. In the first round of funding (May-August) the College awarded \$830,430 to 2,120 students. In the October – December timeframe, the College awarded a total of \$681,630 to 1,711 students. 868 students received grants of \$300 each for a total of \$260,130 and 843 students received grants of \$500 each, for a total of \$421,500.

Summer of 2020 students received information via email, and through Canvas regarding the **Higher Education Emergency Relief Grant** outlining eligibility requirements. In order to be considered for CARES Act federal funds, a student must file or have filed a 2020-2021 FAFSA and met all Federal Title IV eligibility requirements.

Students who met the federal eligibility criteria as of 9/14/2020 and were enrolled in a minimum of 6 units received \$300. Students enrolled in 12 or more units, received \$500. Students receiving a grant were **automatically** awarded through the regular Financial Aid disbursement process on 12/10/2020 & 12/18/2020. If a student did not have a BankMobile account, the process took a few additional days, and the students received a check in the mail. **No applications were required.** Any Rio Hondo student eligible for financial aid could have received this grant. However, Due to limited funds, Rio Hondo College developed the following funding criteria.

To be eligible for one disbursement students must:

- File or have filed a FAFSA for 2020-2021 and be eligible for federal financial aid. Students who file a 2020-2021 FAFSA by June 15<sup>th</sup> 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-\$1500 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.

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