

10/01/20 – OHCC Student CARES Act News Update

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant.

The CARES Act provides institutions significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students. This means that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need. The only statutory requirement is that the **funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus** (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

Oak Hills Christian College signed and returned the CARES Act Certification and Agreement on April 15, 2020 and intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The 50% that is to be disbursed directly to students totals \$55,660. This amount was made available for the Business Office to begin requesting funds on May 6th, 2020. The total grant Oak Hills Christian College is eligible to receive is \$111,320.00. The application for the Institutional Portion was processed in May and the funds were received June 8th, 2020. The Institutional Portion of the grants is to be used to upgrade technology on the Oak Hills Campus.

The COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Committee met for the first time on May 6, 2020. The committee discussed how all 59 traditional program students have been impacted financially, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually in the past, present, or will be in the near future by the disruption of on campus operations. The committee agreed to take a portion of the grant to assist all enrolled Spring 2020 students eligible for Federal Aid by allocating \$500 per student. (59 students x \$500 = \$29,500) These allocations were processed from May 7-14, 2020

The remaining \$26,160.00 is to be used for students who have incurred expenses totaling more than \$500.00. So, students who have incurred more than \$500 in expenses have been encouraged to submit the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Application that was emailed to each Spring 2020 student with instructions on how to complete and submit the form.

As of September 30, 16 students have submitted additional expenses. Total additional expenses approved is \$ 5792.03. Total disbursements to students equals \$36,089.30.