

Student CARES Act Funding Available

Dear Southeast students,

Many of you have heard about the CARES Act, a federal stimulus package responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. A portion of the federal CARES Act provides funding to support students and institutions in covering unexpected expenses due to COVID-19. Southeast has received funding totaling \$6,830,214 and the Department of Education is requiring half of that funding to go directly to students. This results in Southeast having \$3,415,107 available to award to Southeast Students.

The CARES Act instructs universities like ours to direct the aid for students to support current undergraduate and graduate students who have incurred expenses due to COVID-19. Financial questions and concerns voiced by Southeast families have helped guide how to best distribute this aid, in accordance with the federal guidelines. The aid can cover related expenses such as technology costs for remote learning, unexpected travel costs and childcare and medical expenses related to COVID-19.

The CARES Act encourages us to give special attention to students with unmet needs, and students must be Title IV eligible. To verify Title IV eligibility, students must have a 2019-20 FAFSA on file with the university. The CARES Act does not address COVID-related expenses incurred by our international students, our DACA students, or students who were enrolled exclusively online. However, the University does have a limited amount of funding available through a privately-funded student emergency fund. Please contact Student Financial Services at sfs@semo.edu to assess if we have other resources to assist you through this crisis.

To be considered for COVID-19 Relief funding, you will need to submit the COVID-19 Relief Request application. To access the application:

- 1) Visit <http://myworkflows.semo.edu/>
- 2) Log in using your SEKey and password
- 3) Click the *Students* tab at the top and then select *CARES Act*
- 4) Complete the *COVID-19 Relief Request* form
- 5) Once you are done, be sure to electronically sign and hit submit.

Aid amounts awarded will vary based on expenses incurred and student need. Most awards will be a maximum of \$750. The application will remain open as long as funds are available. Applications will be reviewed weekly. Please note that in some cases additional documentation may be required, which could extend our response time.

Please ensure you are set up for direct deposit of refunds through the Southeast portal so that if you are eligible for aid, it will reach you quicker than if we have to mail you a check. You can sign up or verify your direct deposit information by clicking the "direct deposit" link at the top of the COVID-19 Relief Request application.

We hope this aid will assist you and your family through this very difficult crisis. University departments are returning from teleworking beginning May 18th and we are readying the

campus to provide you a safe environment for learning and interacting this fall. We can't wait to see you again!

Carlos Vargas
President