

October 21, 2020

Dear Students,

Last spring, the federal government passed a law known as the “CARES Act,” which provided all U.S. colleges with \$14 billion in emergency funds to distribute to students who face financial hardship due to the pandemic. The CARES Act mandates that each college receive funding directly from the government, and then distribute those funds directly to students who have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Since initially announcing this program back in May, over 220 Wells College students have applied for and received funds from this program. Although the amount provided by the CARES Act funding — which ranges from \$400 to \$970 — is dependent on your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) amount in your financial aid package, receiving these funds will not affect your scholarships or other institutional aid. CARES Act funding are considered grants, and do not need to be repaid. CARES Act funds are also not taxable, and do not need to be reported to the IRS as gross income.

How to Request Your CARES Act Payment

If you were enrolled at Wells during the spring 2020 semester and have not already applied for a CARES Act payment, there’s still time! **Please complete the survey below by next Wednesday, October 28, 2020, in order to receive priority review of your request;** however, federal law allows students up to a year to apply for these funds.

Apply at:

<https://wells.edu/cares-act-application>

Also, the government’s CARES Act legislation requires us to ask about which expenses are related to your request for emergency funds, including food, housing, course materials, technology and/or health care. **You must select at least one expense category on the survey, but please know that your answer to this question will not affect the amount of the payment that you would receive.**

Eligibility Requirements

According to the CARES Act, these federal emergency grants for students are designated for “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).”

Please note that **you must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen** (e.g., a green card holder or permanent resident) and **must have been enrolled as a Wells student during the spring 2020 semester** to receive these funds.

Next Steps in the Process

Once you verify and certify your request, and provide your name and student ID number in the survey, our business office will work on processing your aid request. Checks will be mailed out to the Legal Home Permanent (LHP) address that you previously provided the College.

Please note that distribution of approved funds has been determined via a sliding-scale method based on the student's demonstrated need as determined by their FAFSA. Payment amounts will range from \$650 to \$970. If you did not file a FAFSA but meet the Title IV eligibility criteria, the payment is \$400.

If you have questions about how to apply for CARES Act funding, please contact accounting@wells.edu.

A Note about How Checks Are Mailed

As mentioned above, checks will be sent via postal mail to the legal home permanent address (LHP) that you previously listed with the registrar's office at Wells College.

Unlike the prorated room & board refunds you heard about earlier today — **these federally-provided emergency aid funds will not be deposited to your student account, and your current Wells account balance has no bearing on the net amount you would receive.**

To verify your current LHP address:

1. Log onto the Globe and click on the "face" icon in the upper right of the screen.
2. Go to My Profile & Settings, then click "Contact Information."
3. Expand the address area and the LHP is listed as "Current Address."

If you have any questions about your *address information*, please email the registrar's office at registrar@wells.edu.

Again, **please don't forget to [fill out this survey](#) by Oct. 28** so that we can process your payment as soon as possible. More info about how the CARES Act applies to Wells College students, please visit our website at wells.edu/cares-act-2020.

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