

## ***Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund***

Dear South University Student,

As you may be aware, the federal government recently approved and funded The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which created emergency financial aid grants for students through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). The purpose of the emergency funds is to assist students with the expenses incurred as it relates to the disruption of campus operations<sup>1</sup> as a direct result of COVID-19, moving all campus-based classes from the campus locations, to the virtual format ([South VR](#)).

The CARES Act will provide emergency financial aid grants to students “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 childcare).”

Students who are eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid (Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965) may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which generates a valid Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) with a valid Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and meets the other requirements for federal student aid including, actively attending, attending ground courses during their enrollment, being a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen; having a valid Social Security number; being registered with Selective Service (if the student is male); and being a high school graduate, the student will be eligible for emergency financial aid grants to pay for qualified for expenses. Students must resolve any outstanding verification or C code on their 2019-2020 ISIR before being considered for the emergency financial aid grants.

South University, in an effort to provide relief to ALL eligible students and to immediately award the student emergency funds, finalized its grant allocation based on specific EFC ranges for eligible students as outlined on the students 2019-2020 ISIR. This allows us to immediately award every dollar we received to assist our students. Before receiving the award, the student will be asked to confirm that she/he needs the funds for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus and that the student agrees to use the funds only to pay for eligible expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

Students who meet the federal student aid eligibility criteria should expect to receive their emergency financial aid grant by mid-May from our Bank Mobile vendor. Students with outstanding eligibility criteria will be notified of the grant amount. These students will be responsible for working with the campus financial aid staff to provide any outstanding documentation to resolve verification or C Code flags on their ISIR. Upon resolution of the

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<sup>1</sup> Per the guidance issued by the US Department of Education, “at institutions that provide both online and ground-based education, those students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date of the President’s Proclamation, “Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak,” *Federal Register* Vol. 85, No. 53 at 15337-38, are not eligible for emergency financial aid grants. The formula provided by Congress for calculating the distribution of funds to institutions excludes students who were exclusively enrolled in distance education courses. Additionally, the emergency financial aid grants to students are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, and students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs would not have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.”

eligibility issues, the institution will process the emergency grant stipend.

Qualified students will receive the funds through Bank Mobile, our stipend vendor, based on their prior election for stipends (debit card, electronic transfer payments to a bank account, or paper check) using the student's current address on file. If you would like to establish or change your method for receiving funds, please visit <https://www.refundselection.com/> before May 10, 2020. Please note, students who have not made an election selection will be processed as paper checks. According to the US Department of Education, due to the projected volume stay home orders due to COVID-19, could result in a 14-day delay in receipt of the paper check.

We have created a question and answer document (attached) to assist you with any questions you may have. Should you have any additional questions, please contact your Financial Aid Advisor/Finance Counselor.