



THE CARES ACT

Frequently Asked Questions

May 12, 2020

WHAT IS THE CARES ACT AND DID THE COLLEGES APPLY TO RECEIVE CARES ACT ASSISTANCE?

The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. It is designed to provide “fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs for our American industries.”

Hobart and William Smith applied for and now have access to approximately \$1.57 million in federal aid through the CARES Act, an amount determined in part by the number of Pell eligible students enrolled at the Colleges. As required by law, 50% of that sum – about \$785,000 – must be provided directly to eligible students who have been adversely affected by the pandemic within one year. Recipients must be eligible to receive Title IV funds. Hobart and William Smith retain the discretion of how much to give each eligible student. The second half of the CARES Act funds will be applied to the Colleges’ COVID-19 related budget deficit.

WHO IS OVERSEEING THE CARES ACT AT HWS?

In order to oversee the new program, a task force of senior staff members led by Vice President and Dean of Admissions John Young was formed to establish an application and distribution process that is as equitable as possible and complies with the strict requirements mandated by the CARES Act.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CARES ACT FUNDING?

Only those students who are eligible to receive aid from the federal government (Title IV funds) and who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are entitled to receive funding under the CARES Act.

Students are eligible for Title IV funds if they are United States citizens, have a valid Social Security Number and, if they are males over the age of 18, they have completed their Selective Service registration.

If a student has any questions about eligibility, they should contact the Office of Financial Aid at (315) 781-3315 or finaid@hws.edu.

HOW DO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS APPLY FOR CARES ACT MONEY?

Eligible students should complete the application for funding by May 22, 2020. On this form, please indicate the nature of the expenses incurred due to the disruption of campus operations.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN STUDENTS EXPECT TO RECEIVE?

The size of the individual grants are determined at the discretion of the Colleges, with preference given to students with the greatest need. The amount awarded to each student may also be adjusted based on the number of requests received. Pell eligible students will be prioritized for funding and will generally receive larger awards. At Hobart and William Smith, we estimate that the size of grants could range from \$300 to \$2,000.

WHAT EXPENSES ARE COVERED BY THE CARES ACT?

As described by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, expenses might include but are not limited to “...food, housing, course materials, technology and child care.”

HOW CAN STUDENTS USE THE CARES ACT MONEY?

Some students have indicated a need to take summer classes, since the move to remote learning was challenging for them. Others have lost important off-campus employment opportunities that would have assisted with educational expenses. Still others have worries about their ability to pay for food or to fund books or other materials when the fall semester begins. In short, CARES Act grants will be disbursed directly to students to use how they choose.

HOW AND WHEN WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR MONEY?

Funds will be disbursed via check or electronic transfer if the student's account information is on file with Student Accounts. Payments are expected to be processed between June 15 and July 15.

WILL THE COLLEGES DISTRIBUTE ALL \$785,000?

Yes, the Colleges will distribute all \$785,000. The majority of funds will be distributed this summer but some funds will be reserved for distribution to students this fall to assist with unexpected expenses students may incur as they return to and adjust to campus for the Fall 2020 semester. A second application process will be announced in late summer/early fall.

CAN CARES ACT MONEY BE USED TO PAY FOR SUMMER COURSES?

Yes. Students who dropped a class after March 13, 2020 or received no credit for a Spring 2020 course, can use CARES Act money to fund a course to make up the credit and keep on track for graduation. Monies will be directly distributed to the students and after receiving them, can be used by the student to fund a course at Hobart and William Smith (possibly during the summer of 2020) or at another institution. As always, any enrolled HWS student wishing to take a course at another institution in order to address a goal must have that course approved by the chair of the appropriate department by using the [Transfer Credit Request Form](#).

CAN CARES ACT MONEY BE USED TO PAY FOR LOST EARNINGS?

Yes. Students who experienced disruption in earnings from off-campus employment or who may have had their potential summer earnings cut can apply for CARES Act funding. CARES Act funding cannot make up for any lost wages from an on-campus job or on-campus paid research opportunity.