CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (Quarter ending March 31, 2021)

Suffolk County Community College acknowledges an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the institution has used, or 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. Suffolk County Community College has received or will receive $6,589,770 from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Suffolk County Community College has distributed $6,589,770 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021. $73,715 of this was distributed between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021.

Suffolk County Community College has determined that approximately 14,000 students, based on the number of students who submitted a FAFSA in the 2018-2019 academic year, at the institution are potentially eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

8,690 students have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021. 1,874 students have received a Priority 1 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021, with no additional students receiving Priority 1 grants between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021. 1,810 students have received a Priority 2 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021, with 198 students receiving Priority 2 grants between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021. 7,605 students have received a Priority 3 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021, with 3 of these students being awarded within the calendar quarter ending March 31, 2021. Priority 4 awards commenced on January 1, 2021. These Priority 4 awards are being made available as a result of identification of $73,715 in remaining funding available due in large part in uncashed awards from the previous rounds of awarding, and which remained uncashed despite multiple efforts to reach the awardees. 198 students have received a Priority 4 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021, with all of these students being awarded within the calendar quarter ending March 31, 2021.

Suffolk County Community College has prioritized awarding of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to its students in the following manner (methodology):

> Priority 1: Pell Grant recipients during the Spring 2020 semester will receive an award, upon request and certification that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the Spring 2020 semester, in an amount corresponding to the number of credits they were taking during the Spring 2020 semester.

Priority 2: All Title IV eligible students during the Spring 2020 semester who have unexpected expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 were eligible to submit an application for a CARES Act emergency grant. This application asked students to explain how their expenses have unexpectedly increased as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

Priority 3: Block grants were awarded to all Title IV eligible students enrolled during the Fall 2020 semester as of the end of November 2020 and who otherwise met the general eligibility criteria to receive a CARES Act emergency grant. Students did not have to apply for these funds, and the funds awarded were based on the number of credits they were taking: Pell grant recipients ($100 if enrolled less than half-time; $125 if enrolled half-time; $200 if enrolled ¾ time; $350 if enrolled full-time), Title IV aid recipients ($75 if enrolled less than half-time; $125 if enrolled half-time; $250 if enrolled ¾ time; $350 if enrolled full-time).

Priority 4: $73,715 was awarded between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021. The following methodologies were used to identify recipients: The Suffolk Community College Foundation provided a list of students who had requested emergency financial assistance as a result of COVID-19 through the Foundation's emergency and hardship funding. From that list, 34 students were identified as Title IV aid eligible, and these students each received awards of $1,000, for a total of $34,000 in awards. The College's Director of the NYS Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at SUNY Suffolk, which provides support to eligible students who are economically disadvantaged, among other criteria, also identified EOP students impacted by COVID-19 for consideration for an award if Title IV eligible. 36 EOP students were awarded $500 each for a total of $18,000 in awards. Nursing students who had additional expenses related to their program due to COVID-19 were reviewed to identify Title IV aid eligibility. 125 Nursing students received $150 each for a total of $18,700 in awards. Lastly, College personnel identified additional students in need due to COVID-19, who were reviewed for Title IV aid eligibility, and an additional 3 students received awards totaling $3,015.

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students thus far have received awards ranging from $75 to $3,000.

Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants has been posted on Suffolk County Community College's CARES Act Emergency Funds webpage: https://sunysuffolk.edu/coronavirus/cares-act-emergency-funds.jsp.

Spring 2020 Pell Grant Recipients began receiving email communications on June 3, 2020 informing them they were eligible to request their priority CARES Act emergency grant, with instructions on how to submit their request and certification through the MySCCC student portal. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student acknowledges that he/she has or will have incurred allowable expenses of food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, childcare, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus

operations due to COVID-19. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student further understands that it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the Financial Aid office immediately if he/she will not incur expenses during the Spring 2020 semester that meet or exceed the amount of any award. Any CARES Act emergency grant funding students receive are required to be used toward the expenses for which they were approved.

The application for all Title IV eligible students to apply for and receive CARES Act emergency grant funds in connection with the Spring 2020 semester was made available and announced to students on July 7, 2020. Via this application, students request funds in specific amounts corresponding to identified expenses in their applications; once their applications are reviewed, they are awarded funds if eligible or are informed if they are not eligible. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student acknowledges that he/she has or will have incurred allowable expenses of food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, childcare, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student further understands that it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the Financial Aid office immediately if he/she will not incur expenses during the Spring 2020 semester that meet or exceed the amount of any award. Any CARES Act emergency grant funding students receive are required to be used toward the expenses for which they were approved.

Students were emailed about the Phase 1 and Phase 2 application process four times.

Students who received Priority III awards in connection with block grants to students in the Fall 2020 semester were notified of their award and instructed as follows: “In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), funds have been made available through the CARES Act to award emergency grants to Title IV eligible students for expenses related to the disruption due to COVID-19. Suffolk County Community College has deemed you eligible to receive a CARES Act award of $____ as part of our Phase III Fall 2020 distribution of emergency financial aid grants to students. This is not a loan and will not need to be paid back. These funds can be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and/or transportation). Please click here for more information on what is included in a student’s cost of attendance.”

Students receiving Priority 4 awards with remaining CARES Act funds were notified of their award and instructed as follows: “In response to the coronavirus pandemic, funds have been made available through the CRRSAA Act to award emergency grants to students for expenses related to the any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare. The Campus has deemed you eligible to receive an emergency grant in the amount of $xxx. This is not a loan and will not need to be paid back and will not affect your financial aid award amounts for academic year 2021-2022. Students must understand it is their responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office immediately if they will not incur expenses that meet or exceed the amount of their emergency grant.”