

Minnesota State College Southeast CRRSAA Funds Proposal

Student Portion – Phase I: Partial Funds Disbursement

1. Student Grant Program Plan

The total student allocation to the college is \$333,224 to be disbursed to currently enrolled students for Spring Semester 2021. 10% of these funds (\$33,000) are being set aside as required by the Minnesota State system for student emergency grants. In Phase I, just under 50% of remaining funds (approximately \$140,100) will be disbursed to all Pell eligible spring semester 2021 students, which is approximately 467 students (\$300 per student). These will be distributed by April 16th 2021.

Pell eligible is defined as a student with an Expected Family Contribution of \$5,711 or below.

Phase II disbursements will address spending the remaining student funds balance (approximately \$160,124) in the coming months as we have more guidance about acceptable uses. Phase II may include funding for additional students as well as further funding for students that received Phase I funding, depending on the guidance we receive.

If a student wishes for their grant to be applied to a past due balance at the college, a student must authorize the college to do so. An online form will be created for the student to sign and agree to. The student will have 10 days to sign the authorization. The authorization release is as follows:

I authorize Minnesota State College Southeast to use my CRRSAA financial aid grant to satisfy outstanding account balances up to \$300.00. I understand that whether or not I consent to this authorization will not affect or impact my receipt of or eligibility for the CRRSAA financial aid grant in any way.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

2. Student Emergency Scholarships

10% of the college's student allocation, equaling \$33,000, has been set aside for these scholarships. Students will complete an online application to request the funds. A committee will review the requests and determine if they meet the financial need guidelines and after reviewing the required supporting documentation that must be submitted. Financial need will be determined by supporting authentic documentation received from the student and kept on file. The committee will follow the guidelines, processes, and procedure already in place for our Foundation Emergency Scholarships when

reviewing the CRRSAA Emergency Scholarships.

A student will be eligible for up to one \$500 scholarship per semester. Semesters during which students may apply will include Spring 2021, Summer 2021 and Fall 2022 or until all funding has been distributed.

3. Additional Notes

- All disbursements made to students with the CRRSAA funds will follow our normal disbursement procedures.
- The CRRSAA Plan has been presented to both of our student senates by our Vice President of Student Affairs and Vice President of Finance and Administration for input and feedback.
- A student email will be sent to all students informing them of the CRRSAA grant and emergency scholarships and related protocols after this plan has been approved. Information will also be posted on D2L Brightspace and on the physical campus.

4. Sample Communication to Students

Dear Students,

As we continue to navigate through this new normal we find ourselves in throughout this pandemic, we want to assure you that we are here to support you in your mission of education.

The federal government has provided additional resources to help you continue your education. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) was recently signed into law and the college is working diligently to draft a plan for these funds. A portion of these funds are to help college students whose lives have been interrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges. **The CRRSAA Act requires institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students following Department of Ed and Minnesota State guidance.**

Phase I of this plan will include a **\$300 grant to students with an Expected Family Contribution (as listed on your FAFSA) of \$0-\$5,711.** A student may also apply for a CRSSA Emergency Scholarship. This is a \$500 scholarship awarded to students that show exceptional need. These can be submitted through an online application by reaching out to the Financial Aid Office or the College Foundation.

This plan was reviewed and discussed with the Student Senates on both the Red Wing and Winona campuses for their input prior to final approval.

As we receive more guidance from the Federal Government and Minnesota State we will begin the process of drafting Phase II of the plan to distribute further dollars. Continued communication will be forthcoming as we have more information about who will be eligible in Phase II.

Please reach out us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Josiah Litant, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students

Tammy Vondrasek, Director of Admissions and Enrollment

Pam Zimmerman, Financial Aid Counselor (Winona)

Laurie Munson, Financial Aid Counselor (Red Wing)