

Federal Relief Not Enough to Meet College Students' Financial Needs

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will make \$406 million available to Georgia colleges and universities through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Half of the funds are available now to colleges to distribute directly to students as emergency grants. Colleges have one year to distribute the funds after receiving them.

Although the relief fund will help support many college students, the CARES Act did exclude them from so-called “recovery rebates.” Students whose parents list them as dependents on tax forms are not eligible for payments, nor are students classified as “independent” but who did not file taxes in 2019 or 2018 or immigrant students who file taxes without a Social Security number. Students who are eligible but do not have direct deposit information with the IRS will be among the last to receive their rebate.

Even before the pandemic, financial need among college students was very high. The University System of Georgia estimated \$808 million of unmet financial need among their students in 2014-2015. In listening sessions, students consistently describe financial insecurity as a major challenge. Nearly 40 percent of students in the university system experienced challenges affording and accessing consistent food and housing before COVID-19. Forty-two percent of students did not receive financial support from family to help pay for college or living costs. Nearly 60 percent worked before the current unemployment crisis. Students sometimes describe providing financial resources or other supports, such as transportation, to family members. Undocumented students may face additional burdens, as they pay tuition rates two to four times higher than their peers and are ineligible for Pell Grants and federal loans.

Total Allocations Average Less than \$1,000 per Student

Overall, \$406 million will flow to Georgia colleges and universities, and \$203 million will go directly to students. Hundreds of thousands of Georgians are pursuing postsecondary education and training. The minimum in emergency student grants comes to about \$374 per student, or \$1,152 per Pell recipient, who were weighted differently to serve as a proxy for students from families with low incomes. Because of this, colleges of similar sizes may get different amounts of relief funds if their students come from different economic backgrounds.

The Department of Education said it determined allocations based on several schools' relative share of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) undergraduate Pell Students and total FTE of undergraduate and graduate students. Total allocations by sector are:

- University System of Georgia - \$256 million, or \$749 per student
- Technical Colleges - \$68 million, or \$497 per student
- Private Non-Profit Colleges - \$55 million, or \$691 per student

*Board of Regents includes Georgia Military College. Averages presented are for fall snapshot enrollment, not FTE. Private for-profit colleges in Georgia are allocated \$28 million.

Allocation data from U.S. Department of Education. Per-student numbers calculated using Fall 2018 enrollment and Pell recipient data. More details follow.

University System of Georgia		Minimum Amount for Student Emergency Grants	Total Allocation per Student	Emergency Grant Minimum per Pell Recipient
School	Total Allocation			
Georgia State University	\$45,243,852	\$22,621,926	\$844	\$1,043
Kennesaw State University	\$27,911,927	\$13,955,964	\$738	\$1,227
University Of Georgia	\$23,704,129	\$11,852,065	\$609	\$1,934
Georgia Southern University	\$22,748,221	\$11,374,111	\$873	\$1,333
University Of North Georgia	\$13,636,481	\$6,818,241	\$691	\$1,160
Georgia Gwinnett College	\$13,470,330	\$6,735,165	\$1,050	\$1,053
University Of West Georgia	\$10,881,459	\$5,440,730	\$822	\$1,045
Georgia Institute Of Technology	\$10,388,077	\$5,194,039	\$285	\$2,313
Valdosta State University	\$9,331,398	\$4,665,699	\$828	\$1,075
Savannah State University	\$6,374,932	\$3,187,466	\$1,729	\$1,151
Columbus State University	\$6,352,178	\$3,176,089	\$806	\$1,047
Clayton State University	\$6,165,671	\$3,082,836	\$896	\$904
Augusta University	\$6,145,342	\$3,072,671	\$663	\$1,423
Middle Georgia State University	\$5,988,167	\$2,994,084	\$742	\$861
Albany State University	\$5,137,088	\$2,568,544	\$839	\$703
Dalton State College	\$4,768,309	\$2,384,155	\$961	\$960
Georgia Highlands College	\$4,220,236	\$2,110,118	\$684	\$842
Fort Valley State University	\$4,166,439	\$2,083,220	\$1,588	\$1,180
Georgia College & State University	\$4,082,028	\$2,041,014	\$581	\$1,839
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	\$3,489,407	\$1,744,704	\$889	\$1,020
Gordon State College	\$3,427,492	\$1,713,746	\$981	\$960
East Georgia State College	\$2,879,553	\$1,439,777	\$1,051	\$875
College Of Coastal Georgia	\$2,811,985	\$1,405,993	\$795	\$982
South Georgia State College	\$2,422,737	\$1,211,369	\$1,033	\$926
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	\$2,149,954	\$1,074,977	\$1,166	\$802
Georgia Southwestern State University	\$1,848,045	\$924,023	\$626	\$928
Total USG	\$249,745,437	\$124,872,726	\$749	\$1,152
Georgia Military College	\$5,998,679	3,449	\$681	\$870

Source: U.S. Department of Education, University System of Georgia.

Technical College System of Georgia			Minimum Amount for Student Emergency Grants	Total Allocation per Student	Emergency Grant Minimum per Pell Recipient
	School	Total Allocation			
	Albany Technical College	\$2,451,149	\$1,225,575	\$547	\$424
	Athens Technical College	\$2,983,204	\$1,491,602	\$486	\$553
	Atlanta Technical College	\$3,869,156	\$1,934,578	\$668	\$499
	Augusta Technical College	\$4,386,678	\$2,193,339	\$690	\$631
	Central Georgia Technical College	\$5,100,288	\$2,550,144	\$426	\$485
	Chattahoochee Technical College	\$4,903,653	\$2,451,827	\$333	\$577
	Coastal Pines Technical College	\$1,758,137	\$879,069	\$372	\$558
	Columbus Technical College	\$3,131,902	\$1,565,951	\$680	\$616
	Georgia Northwestern Technical College	\$3,182,360	\$1,591,180	\$424	\$499
	Georgia Piedmont Technical College	\$2,699,452	\$1,349,726	\$466	\$422
	Gwinnett Technical College	\$5,336,576	\$2,668,288	\$441	\$585
	Lanier Technical College	\$2,122,657	\$1,061,329	\$414	\$657
	North Georgia Technical College	\$2,114,032	\$1,057,016	\$578	\$564
	Oconee Fall Line Technical College	\$1,152,438	\$576,219	\$543	\$517
	Ogeechee Technical College	\$1,622,353	\$811,177	\$578	\$630
	Savannah Technical College	\$3,257,084	\$1,628,542	\$566	\$590
	South Georgia Technical College	\$1,870,108	\$935,054	\$659	\$665
	Southeastern Technical College	\$1,258,784	\$629,392	\$532	\$527
	Southern Crescent Technical College	\$3,912,287	\$1,956,144	\$588	\$521
	Southern Regional Technical College	\$3,604,073	\$1,802,037	\$692	\$709
	West Georgia Technical College	\$4,442,806	\$2,221,403	\$466	\$601
	Wiregrass Georgia Technical College	\$2,558,893	\$1,279,447	\$433	\$533
	Total TCSG	\$67,718,070	\$33,859,039	\$497	\$554

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Technical College System of Georgia.

Private Nonprofit Schools		Minimum Amount for Student Emergency Grants	Total Allocation per Student	Emergency Grant Minimum per Pell Recipient
School	Total Allocation			
Savannah College Of Art And Design	\$8,209,651	\$4,104,826	\$583	\$1,804
Emory University	\$7,974,341	\$3,987,171	\$552	\$3,162
Clark Atlanta University	\$6,064,349	\$3,032,175	\$1,551	\$1,328
Mercer University	\$5,265,925	\$2,632,963	\$603	\$1,696
Morehouse College	\$2,947,819	\$1,473,910	\$1,336	\$1,396
Spelman College	\$2,804,294	\$1,402,147	\$1,292	\$1,376
Piedmont College	\$1,766,322	\$883,161	\$721	\$1,482
Life University	\$1,677,181	\$838,591	\$611	\$2,466
Berry College	\$1,589,811	\$794,906	\$789	\$1,763
Brenau University	\$1,283,197	\$641,599	\$452	\$687
Oglethorpe University	\$1,279,508	\$639,754	\$1,012	\$1,282
Reinhardt University	\$1,278,399	\$639,200	\$816	\$1,028
Point University	\$1,214,025	\$607,013	\$540	\$887
Shorter University	\$1,208,080	\$604,040	\$832	\$963
Agnes Scott College	\$1,148,230	\$574,115	\$1,115	\$1,564
Lagrange College	\$1,074,446	\$537,223	\$1,044	\$1,249
Young Harris College	\$1,019,320	\$509,660	\$715	\$1,258
Emmanuel College	\$871,449	\$435,725	\$947	\$1,129
Covenant College	\$822,751	\$411,376	\$787	\$1,576
Paine College	\$798,094	\$399,047	\$1,702	\$1,405
Helms College	\$602,995	\$301,498	\$1,984	\$2,123
Wesleyan College	\$587,801	\$293,901	\$768	\$1,235
Truett McConnell University	\$489,215	\$244,608	\$163	\$769
Toccoa Falls College	\$481,239	\$240,620	\$291	\$512
Brewton Parker College	\$449,184	\$224,592	\$544	\$727
Thomas University	\$375,530	\$187,765	\$287	\$279
Andrew College	\$355,871	\$177,936	\$1,215	\$1,092
Beulah Heights University	\$295,126	\$147,563	\$709	\$1,329
Gupton-Jones College Of Funeral Service	\$275,886	\$137,943	\$1,379	\$831
Morehouse School Of Medicine	\$147,523	\$73,762	\$272	-
Reformed University	\$70,509	\$35,255	\$507	\$1,679
Columbia Theological Seminary	\$68,698	\$34,349	\$390	-
Interdenominational Theological Center	\$44,417	\$22,209	\$152	-
Luther Rice College & Seminary	\$23,030	\$11,515	\$25	\$62
Total Private Nonprofit	\$54,564,216	\$27,282,118	\$691	\$1,426

Source: U.S. Department of Education.