

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation of Hurricane Florence Emergency Grants for Community College Students
FY 2018-19

Request: The State Board is asked to approve the allocation of \$4,900,000 to be allocated to twenty-one community colleges and to establish \$100,000 to be retained in the System Office from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund appropriation.

Background: On October 15, 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted Session Law 2018-136 the 2018 Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Act. This act applies to the North Carolina counties designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Florence. Section 5.3 of S.L. 2018-136 establishes The Hurricane Florence Emergency Grant Program for Postsecondary Students and appropriates \$5,000,000 to be allocated by the State Board of Community Colleges for the purpose of providing emergency scholarship grants in an amount up to \$1,250 per student to eligible postsecondary students who have suffered financial hardship due to the damage and destruction from Hurricane Florence. An emergency grant shall be used to mitigate the impact of Hurricane Florence on a student so that his or her postsecondary education in a North Carolina community college continues uninterrupted. These funds may be used to cover any expenses that support a student's continued enrollment, including costs related to transportation, textbooks, tuition, fees, and living expenses.

Each community college that is eligible for an allocation of funds shall begin accepting applications from eligible postsecondary students by November 1, 2018 and awards within two weeks or as soon as practicable. An application must demonstrate that the student is an eligible postsecondary student by including documentation that the student meets the following criteria:

1. The student is enrolled in the community college at the time of the application.
2. The student has a financial need related to the impact of Hurricane Florence.
3. The student meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The community college in which the student was enrolled as of September 10, 2018, is located in a county designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Florence.
 - b. The student resided, as of September 10, 2018, temporarily or permanently, in a county designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Florence.

Community colleges shall have the discretion to establish criteria for the eligibility of postsecondary students in addition to the legislative criteria. Colleges may establish a priority for students who have demonstrated the greatest financial need or shall award funds in the order in which applications are received. An eligible student shall take all reasonable steps to

obtain alternative funds to cover losses, including funds from insurance policies and federal aid. If a student obtains alternative funds, the student remits the amount of emergency scholarship grant covered by the alternative funds back to the community college.

The State Board is required to report to the General Assembly by April 1, 2019 on the community colleges receiving the funds, the number of emergency scholarship grants awarded and the amount of the grants, the use of the funds by students, any funds reimbursed due to alternative funds, and any remaining funds available for awards in subsequent semesters.

Rationale: The State Board is requested to approve allocations to the 21 community colleges located in a county designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) eligible for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Categories A and B or A – G as a result of Hurricane Florence. The System Office has retained \$100,000 to support emergency scholarship grant applications submitted by eligible students enrolled at any other community colleges and who as of September 10, 2018, resided temporarily or permanently, in a county designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Florence.

Method of Allocation: Each community college allocation is based upon Fall 2017 FTE (as Fall 2018 data is not yet available) and an estimated impact based upon the length of time the college was closed. The funding model is also based upon an assumption of \$800 per curriculum FTE, \$400 per continuing education FTE, and \$250 per basic skills FTE. Colleges closed the longest are considered category 1, colleges that reopened on September 24 or 25 are considered category 2, and colleges that reopened sooner than September 24 are considered category 3. To stay within the funds available in S.L. 2018-136, each college's amount is prorated.

College Name	Impact Category	Amount of Funding
Cape Fear CC	1	\$1,092,297
Carteret CC	1	\$218,592
Coastal Carolina CC	1	\$566,698
Craven CC	1	\$408,333
James Sprunt CC	1	\$160,969
Pamlico CC	1	\$79,163
Robeson CC	1	\$312,529
Bladen CC	2	\$85,617
Brunswick CC	2	\$96,115
Fayetteville CC	2	\$719,113
Lenoir CC	2	\$189,781
Sampson CC	2	\$92,966
Southeastern CC	2	\$99,614
Wayne CC	2	\$212,137
Beaufort CC	3	\$31,261
Central Carolina CC	3	\$110,540
Johnston CC	3	\$85,773
Pitt CC	3	\$166,179
Richmond CC	3	\$56,223
Sandhills CC	3	\$82,973
Wilson CC	3	\$33,127
Total		\$4,900,000

Consistent with 1H SBCCC 200.1, if a college voluntarily forgoes an amount of its approved allocation because it is not able to fully expend the funds and other colleges have a need for those funds, the System Office can reallocate these funds to any college with an identified unmet need.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation of funding is for the period of October 19, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

Fund Source and Availability: These funds are available from the appropriation provided in S.L. 2018-136.

Contact Person:

Elizabeth Grovenstein
Vice President and CFO