##

## ***October 31, 2022***

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Supplemental Support under American Rescue Plan — Student Aid**

Under the American Rescue Plan in July 2022, VCFA became eligible for a fourth allocation of federal dollars in the amount of $107,578 to provide emergency grants to students. These emergency funds can be used by students to cover cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

VCFA created criteria for eligibility for grant awards based on need and enrollment in degree programs at VCFA during the period of April 2022 - August 2022. Two categories of eligibility were identified which were (1) students with exceptional financial need which is based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as reported on their 2021-2022 FAFSAs of 0-2499; (2) students who did not meet this criteria, however, had experienced significant financial hardship based on reduced income as a result of the pandemic, could be considered for an emergency grant award by completing a survey requesting their 2021 income and their 2022 projected income.  By using the income protection allowance of $58,820 from the 2022-2023 EFC formula for independent students as the proxy for an EFC of 0-2499, student requests were evaluated for eligibility for grant awards.

All students were emailed this information about eligibility on September 23, 2022, and if need be, asked to complete the survey by October 1, 2022. If you are/were a student who was enrolled during April 2022 - August 2022 and had extenuating circumstances that prevented you from acting on the email sent in September, please contact VCFA at finaid@vcfa.edu as soon as possible.

As of October 31, 2022, 86 grants for $1,250.91 each have been issued totaling $107,578.26.