

Dear student,

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). As part of this Act, funds were delegated to Columbia State Community College to distribute to Columbia State students whose lives have been disrupted by COVID-19.

You are receiving this message because, based on the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Education, you have been deemed eligible to receive CARES Act funds. The student verification process has been completed, and we are beginning the actual refund process this week. For processing purposes, funds will first be applied to your student account and then will be paid to you by either direct deposit or check. Direct deposit ACH students should see their refunds by the end of the week or early next week. Checks will be printed and mailed by the first of next week.

CARES Act funds are not considered Federal financial aid and will not impact federal, state and institutional aid.

The U.S. Department of Education requires funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The guidelines state eligible expenses are those under the student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. CARES Act funds distributed to you must be used for these qualifying expenses. Your acceptance of the funding is considered confirmation that you have qualifying expenses. If you wish to return the funds to the institution, you must contact the Business Office at BusinessOffice@Columbiastate.edu.

For additional information on the CARES Act funds, visit <https://www.columbiastate.edu/coronavirus/cares-act.html>.

Stay safe!