

SUNY Orange Amended Plan – October 22, 2020

\$1,702,698

to distribute direct to students

to cover “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations related to the coronavirus”

- The expenses articulated by ED are “cost of attendance” items: food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.
- As per ED, only students who are Title IV eligible may receive funds. Students need not have filed a FAFSA to receive funds, but they must be eligible to file a FAFSA and, according to SUNY, willing to file a FAFSA.
- On the ED call 4/9/20, Secretary DeVos noted the funds should go to most disadvantaged students to support their continued learning and the sooner the better
- SUNY has further required that Pell recipients receive a larger percentage of the funds, and further, students with lower EFCs should be prioritized.

SUNY Orange Proposed Response

A committee as conceived by SUNY was not possible as the professional leadership of each of the areas designated by SUNY is presently vacant either by happenstance or as a deliberate cost savings measure except for student services. Therefore, the executive leadership team of President Kristine Young, Vice President for Student Services Gerianne Brusati, Vice President for Academic Affairs Erika Hackman, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Vinnie Cazzetta reworked a CARES Act Phase I plan they developed earlier in April to accommodate SUNY’s guidance. The revised plan was reviewed and enhanced by former Vice President for Administration and Finance Linda Dauer (working as an hourly contractor) and Comptroller Agnes Wagner.

All Spring 2020 Title IV eligible students whose studies were disrupted are eligible to the CARES Act Phase I funding. However, the college sees fit to hold 5% of the CARES Act Phase I for additional requests by students for amounts above the base award or for students eligible to file a FAFSA and need time to do so, while 95% or \$1,617,562 of the CARES Act Phase I funds will be distributed to Spring 2020 credit students whose studies were interrupted, in keeping with the Secretary’s wish to give relief to students quickly.

The Secretary asked institutions to distribute funds to the most disadvantaged students. In higher education, community colleges serve the most disadvantaged students. Therefore, SUNY Orange recommends making all Title IV students eligible and giving all Spring 2020 credit students the opportunity for relief from CARES. In keeping with SUNY guidance it is determined that students receiving Spring 2020 PELL most likely have greater financial hardships and should receive a greater portion of the CARES Act Phase I funding. The college implemented a 1.33 multiplier derived after reviewing the College’s student PELL population as well as student awards. This observes SUNY guidelines, but also acknowledges the unusual dearth of staffing in key areas of SUNY Orange who are additionally working remotely. To distribute based on an EFC gradient would delay disbursement beyond the public trust and pull limited and undertrained staff away from other critical operations of the college.

Finally, SUNY Orange recommends a weighted per student allocation based on the number of credit hours enrolled, with a full-time student receiving a full share, a 3/4 time student receiving a 75% share, a 1/2 student receiving a 50% share, and a 1/4 time student receiving a 25% share of the per student allocation.

Pending timely SUNY approval during the week of May 11, SUNY Orange commits to posting an application webform and publicizing the availability of the funds and web form to Spring 2020 students during the week of May 18. Spring 2020 student accounts will be refunded by check within 10 business days on a rolling basis upon approval, which will be done as timely as possible, and all awards will be issued with no offset to any outstanding balances on the student's account.

Proposed Allocation

SPRING 2020 TITLE IV ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: \$1,617,562 to be distributed

	# of Spring 20 Students	Value of Share	Total Allocation
Full Time	1,135	\$448.35	\$ 508,877
Full Time w/ Pell	987	\$596.31	\$ 588,553
¾ Time	392	\$336.26	\$ 131,815
¾ Time w/ Pell	277	\$447.23	\$ 123,882
½ Time	470	\$224.17	\$ 105,362
½ Time w/ Pell	355	\$298.15	\$ 105,844
¼ Time	298	\$112.09	\$ 33,402
¼ Time w/ Pell	133	\$149.08	\$ 19,827
TOTALS		n/a	\$1,617,562

Total Number of Students Eligible for Award: 4,047 (77% of total student population which includes CCHS, PTECH, and Students who Audit a Course)

Total Number of Pell Eligible Recipients: 1,752

EFC Range AY19/20: Pell Eligible \$0 to \$5,577.

Average award amount: \$400

Graduate Students Awarded: n/a

Amended Plan, October 26,2020:

We are amending our original plan in an effort to assist students who face continued disruption to their academic pursuits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are specifically in need of financial support to upgrade technology, improve access to wi-fi and purchase the course materials necessary to engage in classes in a remote environment.

To ensure the widest distribution of funds, our outreach efforts will include email notifications to every financial aid recipient, a direct appeal from the Vice President for Student Services to every enrolled student, and messages to faculty and academic advisors to communicate the availability of funds to their students. Messages will be sent bi-weekly through the remainder of the semester.

Following the guidelines outlined above, Phase II of fund distribution will focus on Fall 2020 enrolled students as follows:

- 1) New and transfer students who enrolled at SUNY Orange for the first time in Fall 2020 and who incurred expenses related to the continued disruption to college operations due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic; and
- 2) Continuing students who were enrolled at SUNY Orange in Spring 2020 who have incurred expenses in the current semester related to the continued disruption of college operations making them eligible for a second award.

Proposed Allocation

Fall 2020 TITLE IV ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: \$1,422,600. to be distributed

	# of Fall 20 Students	Value of Share	Total Allocation
Full Time	1272	\$390	\$496,080
Full Time w/ Pell	1026	\$490	\$502,740
¾ Time	390	\$290	\$113,100
¾ Time w/ Pell	261	\$390	\$101,790
½ Time	484	\$190	\$ 91,960
½ Time w/ Pell	323	\$250	\$ 80,750
¼ Time	311	\$80	\$ 24,880
¼ Time w/ Pell	113	\$100	\$ 11, 300
TOTALS	4180	n/a	\$1,422,600

Total Number of Students Eligible for Award: 4,180 (77% of total student population which includes CCHS, PTECH, and Students who Audit a Course)

Total Number of Pell Eligible Recipients: 1,723 EFC Range AY20/21: Pell Eligible \$0 to \$6,345.

Average award amount: \$400