CRRSA Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II) & American Rescue Plan Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III)

Section 18004(a)(1) Student Portion

As of March 31, 2022

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

$11,854,238.00

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

$10,903,877.00

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

33,184.00

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

7,268.00

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

The U.S. Department of Education has stipulated that students must meet Title IV funding eligibility, which is determined by completing a FAFSA in order to receive a distribution from the CARES Act funding. In addition, students must meet the following qualifications: 1) Have a valid social security number, 2) Must have established U.S. Citizenship status, 3) Males between the ages of 18-26 must have registered for the U.S. Selective Service, 4) Have a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting, and 5) Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards (SAP). College leadership reviewed various options for distributing these funds to students and came to the conclusion that all students have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have inured unexpected expenses related to the disruption of campus operations. We have created a fair and equitable plan to distribute these funds to all students who have filed a FAFSA and meet Title IV eligibility and those we have determined would meet Title IV eligibility.

The formula used to calculate the allocation for each college was partly based on the number of Pell and non-Pell recipients. Because of that we were able to determine how many eligible students who completed a FAFSA application and were awarded Title IV aid along with those who were eligible for Title IV aid but not Pell Grant eligible. The College also allocated these funds based on the students’ enrollment status (full-time, three-quarter time, part-time, and less than part-time) while also reviewing the CARES student allocation requirements from the Department of Education.

The final regulations define “student”, for purposes of the phrases “grants to students”, “emergency financial aid grants to students”, and “financial aid grants to students” as used in the HEERF programs, as any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in 34 CFR 668.2) at an eligible institution of higher education (HEI as defined in 34 CFR 600.2) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease. This definition enables the College to appropriately determine which individuals currently or previously enrolled at an institution are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants to students under the HEERF programs, as originally enacted under the CARES Act and continue through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2).

The formula used to calculate HEERF 3 funding was based on the completion of an application request of funds. Student had to meet the enrollment qualification stated above to begin to be eligible. Based on the amount of funding received under ARP and students notified we elected to utilize a flat amount of $1,200 of eligibility funding that would assist students with tuition/fee needs. We were also able to identify students who where in attendance after March 13, 2021 who due to the coronavirus had balances incurred that they were not able to pay. We identified these students and provided assistance to these students for past-due balances.

An email was sent out to all students about CRRSAA Act funding (HEERF 2) containing relevant information about the funding on March 22, 2021. We informed all of the eligible students about the HEERF 2 funding available through our scholarship application, which students could indicate their need for HEERF 2 assistance and authorize funding to cover a past-due balance.

For ARP funding (HEERF 3), an email was sent out to all students by the Dean of Students on June 28, 2021. The email informed students that an application to apply for HEERF 3 funding would be available beginning July 1, 2021. The email included information to students about where to go to apply for HEERF 3 funding.