

## CRRSAA: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136.

Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.

In lieu of guidance on required reporting, we have opted to follow the reporting requirements for HEERF I: Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act" or the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020), directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004 of the Act to submit a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund ("HEERF").

1. UW-Superior received the Grant Award Notification (GAN), dated 3/18/21 indicating the \$744,184 student funding, pursuant to Section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Pub. L. 116-260, and governed by Section 314 of CRRSAA and the terms and conditions of the Supplemental Agreement. We have not yet received the GAN for the additional \$127,320 under the Strengthening Institutions Program.
2. Total to spend on students = \$744,184 allocation + \$127,320 under the Strengthening Institutions Program = \$871,504.
3. Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students as of:
  - a. 3/31/21: \$681,100
4. Total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant as of
  - a. 3/31/21: 1,585
5. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in the program and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students as of
  - a. 3/31/21: 1,585
6. Eligible students were sent an email to their UWSUPER email, with a request to submit a Qualtrics survey regarding their payment preference (apply it to their bill or have it directly refunded). If no response was received, the HEERF II funding would be directly refunded to the student. Eligible students include those that have filed a FAFSA (Title IV aid eligible) with a packaging status of "package" or "complete," degree seeking, meeting SAP, and enrolled in at least 1 credit for Spring 2021 term. No application was required. Award amounts were \$700 for those meeting the eligible student criteria with an EFC of \$0, and \$350 for all others.

The remaining funds will be reserved for students new to UW-Superior in the Fall of 2021, and will be spent as follows:

- We created an application to have students tell us how they were impacted by COVID. We are reviewing if they have received a Pell Grant as a factor in determine the amount they receive,

but we are also scoring them on a rubric assessing Financial Impact (scale 1-3), Mental Health Impact (scale 1-3) and Academic Impact (scale 1-3). Award amounts could be \$0, \$500, \$1000, or \$1500. We will continue to push out the application every two weeks as newly admitted students come into our funnel until the funds have all been awarded. We have a committee of four admissions staff reviewing applications.