

## 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.

The Department of Education encourages institutions to report as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the publication of this notice or 30 days after the date the Department first obligated funds under HEERF I, II, or III to the institution for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, whichever comes later. The Department of Education directed that the information below must be updated and accessible to the public no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter (September 30, December 30, March 31, and June 30).

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
3. Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students as of:
  - a. 3/31/21: \$681,100
  - b. 6/30/21: \$680,750
  - c. 9/30/21: \$743,750
  - d. 10/18/21 (final reporting): \$744,184
4. 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
  - b. 6/30/21: 1,653
  - c. 9/30/21: 1,681
  - d. 10/18/21 (final reporting): 1,682
5. Total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant as of
  - a. 3/31/21: 1,585
  - b. 6/30/21: 1,584
  - c. 9/30/21: 1,681

d. 10/18/21 (final reporting): 1,681

6. For current UWS Students: 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.

For new UWS Students: We created an application to have students tell us how they were impacted by COVID. We reviewed if they have received a Pell Grant as a factor in determine the amount they receive, but we also scored their essay response 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 pushed out the application every two weeks as newly admitted students until the funds have all been awarded. We had a committee of four admissions staff reviewing applications and determining awards.

7. For current UWS Students: 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.

For new UWS Students: An application form was pushed out to all newly admitted students ever two weeks encouraging them to apply for this relief aid if they were impacted by COVID. All new incoming students were encouraged to apply. Students were sent multiple reminders via email and text up until the start of the semester. Once students were awarded funds, they received notice through email as well as instructions to set-up direct deposit to receive those funds. For students who did not have direct deposit set up, they received their award by check.