

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II

### Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021

#### Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

#### University of Nebraska at Omaha Summary and Recommendations

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. Allocations to institutions are based on a formula that includes the relative shares of Federal Pell Grant recipients, the relative shares of non-Pell Grant recipients, and the relative shares of Federal Pell and non-Pell Grant recipients exclusively enrolled in distance education prior to the coronavirus emergency. CRRSAA continues to support the important work of addressing students' unmet needs by providing a minimum amount of funding that each institution must devote towards financial aid grants to students. Public and private non-profit IHEs that already have approved CARES Act HEERF awards are not required to submit a new or revised application to receive additional funding under the CRRSAA

**Funding:** The CRRSAA requires that an institution receiving funding under section 314(a)(1) provide the "same amount" in financial aid grants to students from the new CRRSAA funds that it was required or which it would have been required to provide under its original CARES Act Student Aid Portion award. As such, the minimum allocation to be awarded for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students from HEERF II is \$5,379,637.

**Requirements for making financial aid grants to students:** The CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, the CRRSAA explicitly provides that financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. Financial aid grants for students may 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.

The Department believes that allowing students to consent to the application of a CRRSAA financial aid grant to their student accounts would facilitate such a use of funds, if desired by the student, while retaining the student's discretion to determine what costs should be covered with his or her financial aid grant funds.

#### Important guidance from the Department of Education for distribution of funds:

- **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II Public and Private Nonprofit Institution (a)(1) Programs (CFDAs 84.425E and 84.425F) [Frequently Asked Question](#)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF  
EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS TO STUDENTS**

METHOD	AMOUNT	Use of Funds	Selection
<p>Distribution methodology</p> <p><b>Pell grant eligible</b></p> <p><b>EFC 0-5711</b></p> <p>\$1,000 per eligible student</p>	<p>\$3,876,000</p>	<p>Financial aid grants for students may 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.</p> <p>Eligible students can also use the financial aid grants to satisfy an outstanding account balance with written (or electronic), affirmative consent. This consent is built into the online form.</p>	<p>Financial Support &amp; Scholarships will identify eligible students who meet DoED requirements with the greatest financial need.</p> <p>EFC 0 to 5711. This range includes <b>3,876</b> undergraduate, Pell grant eligible students.</p> <p>Financial Support &amp; Scholarships will communicate to these students the availability of emergency financial aid grants.</p> <p>Eligible students must complete and submit a Simple "Opt-In" application (online form) indicating they either do or do not have eligible expenses, and the type of eligible expenses.</p> <p>Grant amount: \$1,000 per eligible student</p>
<p>Distribution methodology</p> <p><b>Non-Pell grant eligible</b></p> <p><b>EFC 5712 – 12403</b></p> <p>\$750 per eligible student</p>	<p>\$1,503,637</p>	<p>Financial aid grants for students may 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.</p> <p>Eligible students can also use the financial aid grants to satisfy an outstanding account balance with written (or electronic), affirmative consent. This consent is built into the online form.</p>	<p>Financial Support &amp; Scholarships will identify eligible students who meet DoED requirements (undergraduate and graduate) with the greatest financial need.</p> <p>EFC 5712 to 12403. This range includes <b>2,005</b> students, included 698 graduate students.</p> <p>Financial Support &amp; Scholarships will communicate to these students the availability of emergency financial aid grants.</p> <p>Eligible students must complete and submit a Simple "Opt-In" application (online form) indicating either they do not have eligible expenses, and the type of eligible expenses.</p> <p>Grant amount: \$750 per eligible student</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,379,637</b>		