

CRRSAA: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)

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 ([updated policy](#)).

Note: This page is dedicated to the new funding (HEERF II) established by the CRRSAA. Information about the HEERF established by the CARES Act and how it was distributed at the Pomeroy College of Nursing at Crouse Hospital can be found in this [link](#).

These emergency financial aid funds may be used for any element of a student's cost of attendance, or for emergency expenses that arise due to Coronavirus including but not limited to tuition, food, housing (rent/utilities), healthcare (including mental health care), childcare, course materials, and technology related needs. Funds will be awarded to students who have experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 and meet the federal emergency fund eligibility requirements detailed below.

To be eligible:

- The student must be enrolled for the spring 2021 semester/term as of January 25, 2021
- The student must have a valid 2020-2021 FAFSA on file by March 8, 2021
- The student must be a US citizen or have Title IV eligible non-citizen status
- The student has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has an emergency financial need for an allowable expense. Allowable costs must have been incurred on or after December 27, 2020.
- The student completed the HEERF II (CRRSAA) Emergency Grant application via MOODLE by March 15, 2021.

Award Determination

Funds were awarded to students who met the eligibility requirements (above). The institution issued payment in two tiers to all eligible students using a combination of demonstrated federal need (EFC) as a determining factor in conjunction with self-reported economic hardship per the completed HEERF II (CRRSAA) Emergency Grant application:

- Group 1: \$729.27 or \$729.28
- Group 2: \$494.87

Institutional Eligibility and Compliance

The College established eligibility for CRRSAA/HEERF II funding by submitting a signed Certification and Agreement for the original 2020 CARES Act/HEERF I to the Department of Education on April 24, 2020.

- To ensure compliance with CRRSAA/HEERF II program requirements, the College drew down its allotted student portion of funding, \$103,922, for the sole purpose of disbursing to students for assistance with the aforementioned expenses.
- The College intends to use the remaining institutional portion of CRRSAA/HEERF II funding for educational infrastructure costs directly associated with safely delivering program content following the initial March 11, 2020 campus disruption, and the continued associated costs with maintaining campus safety.

Disbursement of Funds

There were 156 students eligible to receive CRRSAA/HEERF II funds, which were received on March 24, 2021.

- Total amount awarded to institution for educational infrastructure and campus safety: \$287,419
- Total amount awarded to students: \$103,922
- Payment was issued to 156 students on March 24, 2021 in the form of paper checks mailed to the student's permanent home address listed in SONIS.

Notification and Guidance

Students received an email outlining the details of the CRRSAA/HEERF II per the most recent regulatory documentation per the [Department of Education](#). Students were directed to the Financial Affairs Officer for further information where applicable.

Tax Information

Previously, the [IRS announced](#) that CARES Act funding provided to students will not be taxable, and is considered official federal disaster assistance. Since then, the IRS has not released any official guidance on changes regarding the CRRSAA/HEERF II. The College will continue to monitor appropriate regulatory channels for updates regarding the CARES Act and how it may affect tax filing and/or future financial aid applications.