

Reporting Information for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II as authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) – Student Aid Portion

On December 27, 2020 the University was given additional funds as part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). Under the CRRSAA, the school must use \$1,808,068 of the funding to make grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education) for either any component of the student's cost of attendance (COA) or emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as but not limited to tuition, food, housing, health care, mental health care, or child care.

- 1.) Congress has directed that these funds be given to students with exceptional financial need, such as those eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant. Unfortunately, the US Department of Education does not currently allow these funds to be used for international students, undocumented students, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, or non-matriculated students. As a result of this guidance, Lehigh will be awarding HEERF II Grants from CRRSAA to the following groups of students, and under the following conditions:
  - a. Group 1: Undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying degree program for the Spring 2021 semester, have an official 2020-21 FAFSA on file (to confirm that they meet the citizenship requirements), and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA less than 5847. These students will be awarded a \$1,000 grant.
  - b. Group 2: Undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying degree program for the Spring 2021 semester, have an official 2020-21 FAFSA on file (to confirm that they meet the citizenship requirements), and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the CSS Profile that is less than the cost of attendance. These students will be awarded a \$500 grant.
  - c. Group 3: Graduate students who are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying degree program for the Spring 2021 semester, have an official 2020-21 FAFSA on file (to confirm that they meet the citizenship requirements), and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA that is less than their total cost of attendance may submit a request for funding if they have education-related expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, undergraduate students who meet the criteria in Groups 1 and 2 that have special circumstances that warrant funding above the current allocated amount may submit a request for additional funding.
- 2.) Students were notified of their eligibility for these funds on March 12, 2021.
  - a. *On December 27, 2020 the University was approved to receive funds as part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). Congress has directed that a portion of these funds be given to students with exceptional financial need. Please take a moment to review the FAQ about this information located on our website.*

*We have reviewed your financial aid application and determined that you are eligible to receive a grant in the amount of \$XXX as a result of this funding.*

*These funds will be given to you in the form of a check. You indicated on the mandatory declaration form that you are living at home with family so the check will be sent to your home address (as listed in Banner). This check will be processed and put in the mail by March 19. Please give proper time for the check to arrive to you at your home address.*

*If you need to change the mailing address for this check, please email me at [jlm207@lehigh.edu](mailto:jlm207@lehigh.edu) with your updated information by the end of the day on Sunday, March 14.*

*The funds are not considered part of your financial aid package and can be used however you see fit, but are intended to cover unexpected expenses or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations resulting from the coronavirus. You will not be asked to submit receipts or provide documentation on how these funds were spent. If you currently have a balance on your bursar account, we strongly encourage you to use these funds to cover that balance. Unsatisfied balances can result in holds, prohibiting you from accessing your academic transcript and registering for courses, among other consequences. Therefore, it is in your best interest to apply this funding to your Bursar account. You can request that these funds be applied directly to your Bursar account here: [CRRSAA Funding Form](#). Please note that if you want your funds to be applied to your Bursar account, you will need to submit the request via the link provide by the end of the day on Sunday, March 14.*

3.) The following funds were distributed:

- a. On March 17, we distributed \$1,471,500 in CRRSAA Funds to 2,051 students. In addition, 32 students requested that \$25,500 be distributed to their Bursar account.
- b. As of April 14, we distributed \$141,985 in CRRSAA Funds to 101 students and disbursed \$52,406 to 41 student's Bursar account.
- c. As of May 7, we distributed \$30,723 to 13 students
- d. As of June 7, we distributed \$57,900 to 29 students and disbursed \$3,540 to 1 student's Bursar account.
- e. On June 14, we identified 431 students who were sent CRRSAA Checks but they were not cashed. The amount was \$308,300. The following email was sent to these students:

*On March 12, we notified you of your eligibility to receive funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). We are writing to you because our records indicate that as of today, you have not cashed the check that was sent to you. The check is only valid for 90 days after the issue date.*

*At this point, you must submit the CRRSAA Action form and choose to take one of the following actions*

*-Recommended: Request that we cancel the check and apply the funds directly to your Bursar account. This will decrease your balance due for the Fall 2021 semester.*

*-Cash or deposit the originally issued check into your personal banking account before the 90 days has expired*

*-If you cannot locate the check or will not get to your campus mailbox to pick it up, we can cancel the original check and reissue it to you at an address that you provide on the form.*

*-Cancel the check and do not reissue if you do not need these funds.*

*Be sure to submit the CRRSAA Action form as soon as possible if you wish to utilize these funds. Please give us two weeks from the date that you submit the form to take the action that you requested. If we do not receive your form by the end of day on Friday, June 18, we will assume that you do not need these funds and cancel your check without a reissue.*

- f. As a result of the communication, 57 students requested that their checks be canceled and their funds be applied to their Bursar account, 56 students requested that their checks be canceled and reissued to them. We canceled checks for the remaining 317 students, recovering \$105,000 to award to new students.
- g. On June 18, we distributed \$3,580 to 3 students.
- h. On July 22, we distributed \$3,500 to 2 students and disbursed \$33,218 to 52 student's bursar account.
- i. On August 27, we distributed \$29,100 to 14 students and disbursed \$43,366 to 20 students' Bursar accounts.
- j. As of September 27, we disbursed \$16,750 to 4 students' Bursar accounts.