

4/29/2021 - an error between the departments occurred with drawing down the funds and allocating the funds to students. The departments have reviewed the guidelines and have taken steps to make sure the future funds are drawn down and processed according to the Grant Guidelines.

WESTERN AREA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF)

Cares Act (HEERF) II -CRRSA Student Portion Reporting Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

a. CARES ACT (HEERF)#1 Certification and Agreement was signed on 5/19/2020 and submitted via Grants.gov on 5/19/2020.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center CARES ACT (HEERF) funds was allocated UNDER Section 314(a)(1) for total amount of \$123,772.00.

b. Western Area Career & Technology Center was awarded CARES ACT (HEERF II) CRRSA funds in the G5 account on January 28, 2021 (P425E204659) for the amount of \$61,886.00.

c. Western Area Career & Technology Center CARES ACT (HEERF II) CRSSA funds were drawn from the G5 account on 1/29/2021 and deposited on 2/01/2021.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

a. The CARES ACT (HEERF I) \$61,886.00 allocation has been disbursed.

b. The CARES ACT (HEERF II) CRSSA \$61,886.00 allocation has not been disbursed.

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

a. There are 26 students eligible for the CARES ACT (HEERF II) CRSSA grant.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

a. The CARES ACT (HEERF II) CRSSA grant has not been disbursed

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6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

a. Student determination was based on Federal Pell Grant-eligible students receiving first consideration and then all other Title IV eligible students determined to have exceptional need based on the nature of their emergency student aid application to receive CRRSAA funds.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

a. Information was distributed to all students in their mailboxes in a letter dated 4/27/2021 regarding the grant. The following information provided students with clarification of eligibility as follows:

- 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 arrive due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing and utilities, healthcare (including mental health), or child care.
- Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSSA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive federal Pell grants.
- Students must be a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen.
- Students must be enrolled in an academic/technical program approved to participate in Title IV programs.

b. A Student Application for Emergency Aid was provided to students to complete.

Dear Student,

The ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to create enormous challenges for educational institutions throughout the country. While preserving the learning environment, effectively responding to the coronavirus threat and keeping staff and students safe imposes additional costs to both institutions and students.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was enacted by Congress on December 27, 2020. As a result, Western Area Career & Technology Center Adult Education has been allocated \$61,886 in emergency student aid. This aid will be awarded as Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II grants. HEERF II provides emergency funding to educational institutions to assist students in need. In 2020, this funding was known as the CARES Act Funding.

Western Area Career & Technology Center has established the HEERF II CRRSAA Emergency Relief Fund to distribute grants to eligible students to help cover expenses related to the cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Funds may be used for costs incurred on or after December 27, 2020.

- 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 arrive due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing and utilities, healthcare (including mental health), or child care. Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSSA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive federal Pell grants.
- Students must be a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen.
- Students must be enrolled in an academic/technical program approved to participate in Title IV programs.

Students who are enrolled in the Spring 2021 term and meet the following criteria may be considered for these funds:

- Enrolled in an academic/technical program approved to participate in Title IV programs.
- Have a 20-21 FAFSA or 21-22 FAFSA on file with Western Area Career & Technology Center indicating they meet the citizenship requirements.

Additionally, unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSSA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need when awarding HEERF II grants, such as students who receive Pell grants. Western Area Career & Technology Center has defined exceptional need for the purpose of these funds based on two populations:

- First – Federal Pell Grant-eligible students
- Second – All other Title IV eligible students determined to have exceptional need based on the nature of their emergency student aid application.

HEERF II also provides students with the option to use the emergency grant to help assist with outstanding student account balances. Though students are not required to use these funds to pay outstanding balances, they may choose to do so by electing their preference on the HEERF II Student Application.

In order to process CRRSSA funding assistance for students, we ask that all students complete the attached application no later than May 7, 2021. Only active students who are currently enrolled in an academic program approved to participate in Title IV programs during the Spring 2021 term and are in good standing will be eligible to receive a grant. Once we have received your application, we will begin processing funds for eligible students. For questions regarding the CRRSAA Act emergency grants, you may contact me at jmclain@wactc.net or (724) 746-2890 – Ext. 162.