

## **As of December 22, 2021, 50% of the HEERF-III Funds that have been distributed to students**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF-III) is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, passed by Congress. Cal State LA was awarded \$108,113,372. The funding was required to be used for reimbursement of institutional expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19, as well as emergency financial aid grants to students. In addition, Cal State LA received \$6,816,256 from the Minority Serving Institution (MSI) - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

At least 50% of the \$108,113,372 provided by the HEERF-II, or \$54,097,891 was mandated for emergency financial aid grants to students. Cal State LA President William A. Covino signed and returned a certification and agreement form to the U.S. Department of Education stating that the university used at least 50% of the funds for emergency financial aid grants for students.

During this reporting period, Cal State LA disbursed the \$26,999,997.74 to 27,636 students enrolled in Fall 2021 semester. And we disburse the remaining \$27,097,893.26 to students enrolled in the Spring 22 semester.

All students who are enrolled at Cal State LA for the school year Fall 2021- Spring 2022 were considered for HEERF-III emergency aid funding. Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education indicates that all enrolled in an institution of higher education during the Covid-19 national emergency are eligible for emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF, regardless of whether they completed a FAFSA or are eligible for Title IV. That includes citizens, permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students, and international students.

A funding model was developed to distribute the emergency aid to students expeditiously. The emergency aid was disbursed automatically to eligible students through a block grant method. Those students who set up a direct deposit account received their funds via direct deposit. Students without a direct deposit set-up received a check via U.S. mail to the address on file with the University.

The following factors were included in determining the amount of HEERF III aid students receive:

- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the 2021-2022 FAFSA or the California Dream Act application on file at the time of distribution (used to determine and prioritize the financial need component)
- Fall 2021 semester enrollment

### **HEERF III emergency aid amounts:**

- **Expected Family Contribution of \$0 to \$5,847**
  - Enrolled students received \$1,025
- **Expected Family Contribution of \$5,848 to \$10,000**
  - Enrolled students received \$900
- **Expected Family Contribution of more than \$10,000**
  - Enrolled students received \$750
- **Students who did not submit a FAFSA or Dream Act Application**
  - Enrolled students received \$750

- **International Students**

- Enrolled international students that completed a HEERF III emergency grant application received \$500

With the most recent guidance from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which published on May 11, 2021, the final rule defines student eligibility for the grants as "***any individual who are or were enrolled in an institution of higher education during the Covid-19 national emergency are eligible for emergency financial aid grants from HEERF.***" Therefore, it is no longer required that students be (or could be) Title IV-eligible, as they were for HEERF I or II -funded grants issued through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The final guidance also indicates that U.S. citizens and permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, other Dreamers, and similar undocumented students are also eligible for student grants from all three HEERF programs. This also means that schools can award HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III to students who are not enrolled in Title IV-eligible programs. This includes non-degree, noncredit, and continuing education students, students who are eligible.

The final distribution for Fall 2021 of the HEERF-III emergency relief aid to eligible students through an automatic block grant method occurred in Fall 2021. To comply with the ARP final guidance, Cal State LA disbursed the remaining balance of the HEERF-III funds to registered students. The award amount was \$92.78.

The campus has created the [Cal State LA CARES Program webpage](#) to provide information to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants. The university has also sent emails to students with information about the emergency grants.

The information reported above is current at the time of publication.