



HEERF II Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Emergency Relief Funds Financial Aid Grants to Students

Updated December 17, 2021

South Texas College has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement on April 16, 2020. South Texas College intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Funds provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) are authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), 2021, Public Law 116-260, signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on Dec. 27, 2020.

South Texas College received approximately \$10 million which has been made available for Emergency Aid to assist students with unexpected expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recipient's Funding Certification & Agreement - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	Download
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.	\$10,011,199

Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CRRSAA Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30 day Report)	\$10,011,199
Estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act	12,000
Total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CRRSAA Act	10,307

Methods

The method to determine which students receive HEERF II Emergency Financial Aid Grants authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 section 314 of the CRRSAA, guidance published by the US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education that was posted on May 6, 2020 and updated on March 19, 2021 online at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html>. and guidance posted to the Office of Postsecondary Education’s CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund website at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.

As of May 11, 2021 the Department of Education published final rule, “[Eligibility To Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Under HEERF](#)” (May 14, 2021, 86 FR 26608) (Final Rule), the term “student,” for purposes of the phrases “grants to students,” “Emergency financial aid grants to students,” and “financial aid grants to students” as used in the HEERF programs, is now

defined as any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in [34 CFR § 668.2](#)) at an eligible institution (as defined in [34 CFR § 600.2](#)) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus ([85 FR 15337](#)). Thus, students are no longer required to be eligible for Title IV student financial aid in order to receive HEERF grants to students.

The Frequently Asked Questions document posted by the Office of Postsecondary Education states in Answer #8 unlike the CARES Act, 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. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: US citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting." Accordingly, South Texas College has complied with regulations and guidance in processing applications from students it has received.

The method to determine how much each student would receive considered the allocation formula grant funds received by South Texas College for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), plans to use no less than fifty percent of the funds received to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a students' costs of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care), and an estimated number of students who would meet the eligibility guidelines provided by the US Department of Education: Office of Postsecondary

Education. South Texas College determined the amount of each individual emergency financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws including non-discrimination laws, has collected information from student applicants, and determined that the initial distribution amount for eligible Spring 2020 students would be \$600 and for Fall 2021 students would be eligible for \$1,700.

Instructions

Please view supporting documents of instruction, direction, and guidance STC provided to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

- [Emergency Grant Application](#)
- [CARES Email Message](#)
- [CARES Informational Webpage](#)