

Fact Sheet - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021

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This chart outlines the main differences between the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and HEERF II under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA).¹

| Topic | Section 18004(a)(1) HEERF (CARES Act) | Section 314(a)(1), (a)(4) HEERF II (CRRSAA) |
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| Authorizing Legislation | Section 18004 of the CARES Act | Section 314 of the CRRSAA |
| Period of Funds Availability | Institutions of higher education (IHEs) have one calendar year from the date of their award to expend funds unless the institution receives a no-cost extension. Funds may be used for pre-award costs, dating back to March 13, 2020, when the National Emergency was declared. | IHEs have one calendar year from the date of their award to expend funds unless the institution receives a no-cost extension. Funds may be used for pre-award costs incurred on or after December 27, 2020, the date of the enactment of the CRRSAA. |
| Eligible Institutions | IHEs as defined in title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 314(a)(1) Programs (CFDAs 84.425E and 84.425F): Public and Private Nonprofit IHEs, as defined in section 101 and section 102(c) of the HEA. Section 314(a)(4) Program (CFDA 84.425Q): Proprietary IHEs, as defined in section 102(b) of the HEA, now are eligible only under this new program. |
| Application Process | Institutions were required to submit applications to receive emergency relief funds for the CARES Act Student Aid Portion and/or Institutional Portion awards. The Department is no longer accepting applications for this program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 314(a)(1): CARES Act HEERF grantees who received Institutional Portion and/or Student Aid Portion funds will receive a supplemental CRRSAA HEERF II grant award automatically. Eligible institutions that did not receive a CARES Act Student Aid Portion and/or Institutional Portion grant must submit an application no later than April 15, 2021. Section 314(a)(4): Proprietary institutions must submit an application under this new program no later than April 15, 2021. |
| Deadline to apply for funds | The CRRSAA repurposed remaining CARES Act section 18004(a)(1) funds and the Department no longer is accepting applications for this program. | Applications are not required to receive supplemental awards under the CRRSAA; new applications for CRRSAA Student Aid Portion and Institutional Portion and Section 314(a)(4) awards must be submitted no later than April 15, 2021. |

¹ This factsheet addresses the differences between the grant programs under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act and Sections 314(a)(1) and (a)(4) of the CRRSAA. It does not address the differences between the grant programs under Section 18004(a)(2) and (a)(3) of the CARES Act and Sections 314(a)(2) and (a)(3) of the CRRSAA.

| Topic | Section 18004(a)(1) HEERF (CARES Act) | Section 314(a)(1), (a)(4) HEERF II (CRRSAA) |
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| Uses of Student Aid Portion Funds (CFDA 84.425E) or Proprietary Institution Grant Funds for Students (CFDA 84.425Q) | <p>Institutions must make emergency financial aid grants to in-person students, provided that such emergency financial aid grants are for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.</p> <p>Institutions with unexpended (as of December 27, 2020) Student Aid Portion CARES Act funds may use those funds to provide financial aid grants in the same way they are allowed to use their Student Aid Portion funds under the CRRSAA, including by providing such grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.</p> | <p>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 arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with <i>exceptional need</i>, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.</p> |
| Uses of Institutional Portion Funds (CFDA 84.425F) | <p>Institutional Portion funds may be used for those costs that have a clear nexus to significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>Institutions with unexpended (as of December 27, 2020) Institutional Portion CARES Act funds may use those funds in the same way they are allowed to use their Institutional Portion funds under the CRRSAA.</p> | <p>Institutional portion funds may be used to defray expenses associated with coronavirus (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll), and to carry out student support activities authorized by the HEA that address needs related to coronavirus. Institutional funds may also be used to make additional financial aid grants to students.</p> |
| Student Eligibility | <p>On the June 17, 2020, the Department adopted an Interim Final Rule (IFR) (85 FR 36494) limiting student eligibility for emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act to students who are or could be eligible to participate in the Department’s Title IV Federal student financial aid programs under HEA Section 484.</p> | <p>The IFR and its implementing regulation, 34 CFR § 668.2, apply only to funds made available under the CARES Act and not to funds made available under the CRRSAA.</p> |
| Quarterly Public Reporting | <p>Recipients report publicly on their primary websites on a quarterly basis for both student portion and institutional portion funds. For more information on student portion reporting, see our August 31, 2020 notice here. Our institutional quarterly reporting form is available here.</p> | <p>Reporting requirements will be specified in forthcoming announcements. Note that CRRSAA awards may be delayed or subject to drawdown restrictions for IHEs that have failed to meet CARES Act reporting requirements.</p> |
| Annual Reporting to the Department | <p>Institutions are required to submit an annual report to the Department by February 1, 2021 covering CARES Act HEERF grant expenditures in calendar year 2020. More information is available at our reporting website here and the Portal website here.</p> | <p>Reporting requirements will be specified in forthcoming announcements. Note that CRRSAA awards may be delayed or subject to drawdown restrictions for IHEs that have failed to meet CARES Act reporting requirements.</p> |

More information regarding these topics can be found on our CRRSAA HEERF II website here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html>.