

Revised HEERF II Emergency Grant Process & Quarterly Report

March 22, 2021

Summary:

- CRRSAA (HEERF II) signed into law on December 27, 2020.
- Minimum amount that must be spent/awarded to students: \$704,097
- Continuation of the CARES Act with some changes.
 - Should be prioritized to students with need (i.e. Pell Grant Recipients)
 - Expenses must be incurred after December 27, 2020.
 - Must be degree-seeking
 - No grants to DACA or International students.
 - Can cover any items in the cost of attendance.
 - Does not have to meet Title IV aid eligibility requirements.
- Funds are not considered estimated financial aid.
- Cannot require that funds be paid toward student account balance but will offer that option to the student.
- Notifying students of option for direct deposit. This requires:
 - Some programming by IT as current process isn't set up for the subsidiary that the emergency aid grants run through. IT has agreed to do this programming for us.
 - Students to sign up for direct deposit
- Awards totaling \$704,097 were made to 490 students on March 24, 2021 and disbursed on March 26, 2021.

Awarding of Grants Recommendation

As of January 28, 2021, we have 1358 HEERF eligible students enrolled for spring 2021. This includes ABSN and graduate students. It excludes international and non-degree students.

There are 540 students with an EFC from the FAFSA that if they were all undergraduate would indicate they were Pell eligible and therefore "needy".

Assumptions:

- Definition of disadvantaged/needy student is Pell Grant recipients.
- Graduate students and ABSN, while needy are not considered disadvantaged since they all have at least one bachelor's degree at this time.
- Will be awarded to currently enrolled students only. If student withdraws before grants are awarded, they will not be considered.

Reserve approximately 50% of the allocation for Pell Grant recipients. Block grants would be awarded to non-applicant Pell Grant recipients based on the amount remaining of the reserve after Pell recipient applications have been reviewed.

Non-Pell recipients who applied will then be reviewed. Any funds remaining after all applicants

and Pell block grants have been awarded will be awarded at the Pell Grant block rate to non-recipient students starting with lowest EFC and progressing to higher EFCs until funds have been fully awarded.

We ask all students to submit an application. We will review the applications at the same time. Those that apply who received Pell Grants will be granted a minimum of \$500. If they request more than that and their request is approved, they would receive more.

Those that apply who do not receive Pell will be granted funds based on their application with a minimum award of \$500.

Remaining funds will be awarded in block grants to the rest of the students who did not apply and who do not receive block grants. Anyone that we have calculated an initial grant that is less than that block would be increased so that an applicant doesn't receive less than the block amount.

All funds would be awarded to students at the same time.

Those students that have a balance on their student account would be offered the option to have the grant applied to their account with any credit balance being issued as a refund. All other students would have the grant disbursed directly to them via direct deposit or check.

Distribution of Information to Students:

- By TLU email to All Students
- By email to parents of FAFSA filers cc'd to students TLU email and personal email addresses
- Posted to MyTLU and to tlu.edu as required by federal regulations

Anticipated Timeline:

- Email with application would be emailed to students by Feb 12th. Earlier if possible.
- Application deadline: March 1st
- Reviewed completed by March 12th
- Disbursements made to student account by March 26th
- Direct deposits made or checks mailed/available for pick up by March 31st

Final Awarding Process – added March 22, 2021

- 562 HEERF II grant application were received.
- Requests totaled \$2,534,129.76
- All were reviewed and recommendations were made based on the application and supporting documents submitted.

Because demand greatly exceeded the amount of funds available to offer, we decided on the following BEFORE reviewing applications.

- Housing & Utilities requests:
 - For those living off campus, we will award 2 months of rent up to the amount of the request when a lease or mortgage statement was provided. Utilities will be awarded based on the average of 2 months of utility bills divided by number of tenants when bills were provided. We will use 2 tenants when a mortgage is provided by a married student.
 - For those living on campus, we will award ½ of the semester cost of room up to the amount of out-of-pocket expenses or the amount of the request, whichever is less.
- Food - We will award \$100/week for 8 weeks or the amount of the request, whichever is less.
- Tuition will be awarded for the amount of out-of-pocket expenses, the amount of the request, or \$5,000 – whichever is less.
- Other expenses – Only specific requests indicated on the request form will be considered when proper documentation is provided. Only receipts dated on or after December 27, 2020 and which detailed the purchase are acceptable. If a receipt does not say what it is for and/or is not dated, the request will not be considered.
- Items funded:
 - Gas: We will award up to \$40/week for gas or the amount of the request, whichever is less. Receipts for gas are not required.
 - Books & Other Course/Program Related Items: When books are indicated on the request form and receipts provided.
 - Technology: Funds will be awarded for computer repairs and purchases.
 - Childcare: Funds for childcare will be awarded for 8 weeks or the amount of the request, whichever is less when proper documentation is provided.
- Items not funded:
 - Car payments, insurance, maintenance, repairs, or tires.
 - Gym memberships.
 - Phone bills.
 - Credit card payments.
 - Clothes.
 - Renter's insurance
 - Zoom
 - Summer Tuition
 - Loss of income

When the total of all items requested and approved exceed \$5,000, the student's award will be capped at \$5,000.

Students who did not file the FAFSA or whose FAFSA EFC was higher than 50,000 will be denied.

After recommendations were made, we decided to award based on recommendations but within the minimum and maximum amounts as shown below. With minimums in place, we felt we needed to award applicants who were initially denied for lack of proper documentation the minimum award amount. This resulted in an additional 51 students – 11 of whom were Pell Grant recipients – receiving grant awards at the minimum amount.

Applicants were awarded with minimum and maximum grants as shown in the chart below.

	EFC Range	Minimum Grant	Maximum Grant
Pell Grant Recipients	0 to 5,711	\$1,500	\$2,000
Non-Pell Grant Recipients	0 to 10,000	\$1,250	\$1,750
	10,001 to 15,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
	15,001 to 20,000	\$750	\$1,250
	20,001 to 30,000	\$500	\$1,000
	30,001 to 40,000	\$250	\$500
	40,001 to 45,000	\$225	\$225
	45,001 to 50,000	\$188	\$189
	50,000 plus and non-FAFSA filers	\$0	\$0

This results in 490 applicants receiving awards totaling \$704,097. One applicant was not eligible for the grant per federal rules at the time of awarding. 71 students were not awarded as they either did not file the FAFSA or their FAFSA EFC was greater than \$50,000.

Breakdown of grants awarded:

- 457 Undergraduates totaling \$658,621
- 30 Accelerated Bachelors of Nursing totaling \$40,226
- 3 Masters of Education \$5,250

HEERF III funds were approved during the HEERF II review process. We are anticipating an additional \$2,000,000 plus in funding. Once those funds have been made official and released to schools, we plan to:

- Reserve \$257,000 to award each of the 257 Pell Grant recipients who did not submit a HEERF II grant application a block grant award of \$1,000.
- Reserve \$500,000 of HEERF III funds for students with emergency needs for spring 2021 and/or summer 202
- Reserve the remaining HEERF III funds for awarding of emergency grants for fall 2021.