Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

September 2021 Report

1. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than the required minimum amounts in the CARES, CRRSAA, and ARP acts to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

2. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill received the following amounts pursuant to our Certification and Agreement for HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants to our students:

   a. $8,647,589 from HEERF I, also known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES),

   b. $8,647,589 from HEERF II, also known as the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and

   c. $22,758,258 from HEERF III, also known as the American Rescue Plan (ARP), for a total of $40,053,436.

3. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill distributed the following Emergency Financial Aid Grants to the students:

   a. The total amount of HEERF I (CARES) funding disbursed as of September 30, 2021 is $8,647,589. During the quarter from July 1 – September 30, 2021, $0 was disbursed. All HEERF I (CARES) funds were disbursed by December 31, 2020.

   b. The total amount of HEERF II (CRRSAA) funding disbursed as of September 30, 2021 is $8,647,589. During the quarter from July 1 – September 30, 2021, $3,280,927 was disbursed.

   c. The total amount of HEERF III (ARP) funding disbursed as of September 30, 2021 is $22,749,837. During the quarter from July 1 – September 30, 2021, $22,749,837 was disbursed.

4. The 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, is 24,302.
5. The total number of students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who have received a HEERF I (CARES) Emergency Financial Aid Grant as of September 30, 2021 is 3,807.

The total number of students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who have received a HEERF II (CRRSAA) Emergency Financial Aid Grant as of September 30, 2021 is 2,795. During the quarter from July 1 – September 30, 2021, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant is 625.

The total number of students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who have received a HEERF III (ARP) Emergency Financial Aid Grant as of September 30, 2021 is 7,533. During the quarter from July 1 – September 30, 2021, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant is 7,533.

6. In spring and summer 2020, HEERF funding was awarded to students who applied for emergency funds for any additional needs caused by the pandemic including relocation home, return from study abroad, medical and food needs, temporary housing, transportation and more.

The University used CARES Act funding to meet a portion of the additional student financial need that the pandemic has created. Using the funds in this way will help students persist in their studies and graduate on time; it will also help the University meet the greater demonstrated need of the student body as a whole.

To ensure that students received their CARES Act funds by the start of the fall 2020 semester, the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid awarded funds, without an additional application, to every undergraduate student who qualified for Pell, Covenant Scholarship or University grants of at least $1,000, with each such student receiving an increase in total grant funding of at least $1,000 for the academic year. Through individual appeals, the office also awarded CARES Act funds to graduate and professional students, as well as other undergraduate students who demonstrated extraordinary need. Funds were also used to provide internet stipends in spring 2021 to students who demonstrated financial need and were living off-campus or with family and studying remotely.

HEERF awards were also made to undergraduate students who needed additional courses and demonstrated extraordinary financial need in summer 2021 due to the pandemic. HEERF funds were also used to assist needy students who applied for work-study jobs and were not hired and students who worked a work-study job but were unable to earn their full offered award.

HEERF Emergency Grants were automatically awarded in 2021-2022 to undergraduates who qualified for Pell, Covenant Scholarships, or otherwise demonstrate extraordinary need. A portion of student grant funding was also available through the Graduate School to help students who were unable to finish their programs due to research and travel interruptions caused by the pandemic or who demonstrated extraordinary need as undergraduates. As always, the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid is also considering requests for reconsideration and emergency grants from students who previously did not qualify but whose financial circumstances have changed.
7. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill notified all students by email and the website regarding information about the HEERF funding.